



No 3,645

# THE INDEPENDENT

WEDNESDAY JUNE 1998

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24-PAGE BROADSHEET REVIEW

Do they think  
it's all over?

10 PAGES OF SPORT



The truth about  
our spin doctors

KEN LIVINGSTONE, COMMENT



Beauty school  
drop-outs

TAMSIN BLANCHARD, FASHION



## Anger as Redwood joins 'carpetbagging' company

JOHN REDWOOD, the Conservative spokesman on trade and industry, was last night at the centre of a row over his role as a director of a company set up to profit from accelerating the process of turning building societies into banks.

Murray Financial is being launched by Ken Murray, an Edinburgh-based financier, specifically to take over a num-

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

ber of small building societies, friendly societies and mutual life assurance companies. The company's shares will start trading on London's Alternative Investment Market (AIM) next Monday.

Murray Financial is the only directorship Mr Redwood holds. He has subscribed to

100,000 shares in the company at 10p each. He will be paid £12,000 a year as a non-executive director.

When asked whether his position as a shadow spokesman, with a portfolio that includes competition policy, conflicted with being director of a company dedicated to profiting from demutualisation, Mr Redwood said: "No, I don't see that

at all. I've always been in favour of wider share ownership."

Last night, there was scepticism as to whether such a "carpetbagging" company would flourish. Adrian Coles, the director-general of the Building Societies Association, which represent the remaining 70-odd societies, said: "I would be surprised if any building society would want to be taken

over by [Murray Financial]," Kerry Pollard, the Labour MP for St Albans and spokesman for the pressure group Save Our Building Societies, said: "I think John Redwood should be the last to be involved in this kind of thing."

Murray Financial stressed that all its deals will be "voluntary". It will seek to persuade members of building societies,

for instance, to vote to ditch mutual status in favour of becoming a bank. Murray Financial would then take over ownership of the new institution in exchange for company shares.

Instead of a windfall cash payment, building society savers and borrowers would get shares in the new company. Mr Murray hopes to repeat the process on a series of building

and friendly societies, and, by stripping out costs by closing offices, seeks to create a profitable company able to give shareholders high dividends.

Mr Redwood stressed that all Murray Financial's deals would be done by agreement with the members of the societies concerned.

Alan Davies, the chief executive of the Nationwide build-

ing society, himself faces a vote by the society's members on whether to demutualise. An outspoken champion of Murray Financial's prospects, "All the small mutuals I've spoken to are very keen to stay small mutuals. I have to say it sounds a very strange venture. And I find Mr Redwood's involvement even odder."

## Minister vows to overturn school system

BY JUDITH JUDD  
Education Editor

SWEEEPING CHANGES to the way schools are run will transform pupils' lives by the next century, the Government promised yesterday.

Stephen Byers, the school standards minister, said that 25 education action zones would challenge the status quo by introducing longer school days, a different school year and new types of lessons.

Teachers warned, however, that they would resist any changes to their pay and conditions caused by longer working hours.

Zones, which will involve groups of schools in areas where pupils are underachieving, will attract £56m over three years from the taxpayer and £19m from business.

The first 12 zones will start in September and the rest in January. More are expected next September and ministers are hoping that parents will bid to set up new zones where they are unhappy with local schools.

Mr Byers said: "Let there be no doubt that education action zones present a fundamental challenge to the educational status quo, a real threat to the vested interests which have for too long held back our education system."

Household names such as Rolls-Royce, Kellogg, Tate and Lyle, and American Express are business partners in the zones with local authorities or groups of schools. British Aerospace, for example, will help plan the curriculum in Hull.

Most will be led by local authorities but two, ministers say, will be led by business: Shell International will take the lead in Lambeth, south London, and Comcast, a cable, telephone and television provider in Middlesbrough. The Halifax bank will be "a driving force" in the Calderdale zone.

The 25 successful bids chosen from a total of 60 applications include proposals for: a tailor-made television channel bringing the classroom into

pupils' living rooms in Grimsby; an increase of 50 per cent in school opening hours in Birmingham.

Investigation of a school year split into four or five terms in Croydon.

A longer school day, Saturday classes and breakfast clubs in Hull.

Work-related lessons for disaffected 14- to 16-year-olds in Brighton and Newcastle.

A quarter of the zones are considering whether to vary teachers' pay and conditions to accommodate longer school days and weekend and holiday working.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, said the aim was to transform and modernise schools: "There is no alternative to radical solutions to difficult problems. The traditional solutions are not working in these areas. It is not our intention to return to the education system that we inherited."

All zones will receive £750,000 a year from the Government and £250,000 from business for three years and must set targets to raise standards. Each will involve several secondary schools and up to 15 primaries. They will be run by forums including representatives of local authorities, business, teachers and parents. In the business-led zones, company representatives will chair the forums but no profit-making company will be in control.

Responding for the Tories, education spokesman David Willetts said that zones would be "left in the hands of the very local education authorities that even the Department for Education believes has failed".

He added: "This is yet another example of the Government talking tough rhetoric but the reality is different."

David Hart, of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "If education action zones take off nationally, they will represent the biggest change the education system has seen in decades. They will become the Trojan Horse which could well destroy local education authorities as we know them."



Covers on the courts at Wimbledon yesterday during a rain-restricted day on which only 11 of 64 scheduled singles matches were completed. Reports, page 24, 25 Fiona Hanson

## Campbell 'wiped tapes'

TAPES OF Number 10 Press briefings were demanded last night by a cross-party select committee, but Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's official spokesman, told MPs that most of them had been wiped.

Mr Campbell said he would discuss with Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary, whether daily summaries of the lobby briefings should be supplied to the committee chaired by Labour MP Rhodri Morgan.

But he said most of the tapes were re-used and permanent copies were not kept. He is also

BY COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

to consider keeping a permanent taped record of all future briefings.

The key tape the Tory MPs on the committee demanded was of his briefing over Tony Blair's alleged intervention on behalf of Rupert Murdoch with the Italian Prime Minister, Romano Prodi. The MPs said he had described the reports as "crap", but the Italian press reported the incident as true.

Under questioning for more

than two hours, most of it friendly, Mr Campbell denied lying to journalists about the Murdoch affair and denied telling journalists that Richard Branson could get a knighthood in two years' time.

The sharpest exchanges with Mr Campbell came from two former Tory political advisers, now MPs, Andrew Tyrie and David Rutley, who challenged him to produce the tapes of his briefings with journalists at Number 10.

Denying politicising the

Whitehall information machine, he told the MPs that journalists and Tory MPs appeared "obsessed" with his role.

He disclosed that he had discussed with Sir Richard Wilson the possibility of briefing on the defection to Labour last week of the former Tory MP Sir Peter Temple Morris. After taking advice from the Cabinet Secretary that it was a "grey area", he decided not to do so.

But Mr Campbell said he was committed to the Labour Party, and when the election was called, he would resign and work for the Labour Party.

## Mafia leave police in a hole

BY ANNE HANLEY  
In Rome

TWO of the most dangerous mobsters in Italy, on trial this week in one of the country's top-security courtrooms, threw proceedings into confusion when, under the stern gaze of judge, jury, lawyers and police, they suddenly disappeared.

All Ferdinando Cesarano and Giuseppe Autorino left behind in the prisoners' cage of the bunker courtroom in Salerno were two unused flares. Apparently they had planned to vanish in a puff of smoke - but even that was not needed to help them make their exit.

They had instead simply

dropped through a trapdoor in the floor, slid down a freshly-dug tunnel, run across surrounding fields and were whisked away by a waiting car.

For years, Cesarano and Autorino had been responsible for reinvesting the profits of the Camorra - the Naples-area mafia - in South America. Before that, they had run their hometown extortion racket and coordinated clan killings.

Arrested in 1993 and 1994



respectively, the two have received life sentences for murder. By the time the guards pulled themselves out of

their stupor, Cesarano and Autorino were well out of range of police pistols and had calmly disappeared into the balmy southern Italian night.

The escape spelled deep embarrassment for the Justice Minister, Giovanni Fico, following other spectacular escapes last month. "Fico should do everyone a favour," one top defence lawyer said. "He should stop polluting the justice system... and go straight home." In other words, do more or less what the missing prisoners had done.

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**BY IAN BURRELL**

## BRITAIN TODAY



### NEXT FEW DAYS

## LIGHTING UP TIMES

|            |       |    |       |
|------------|-------|----|-------|
| Belfast    | 22.04 | to | 04.48 |
| Birmingham | 21.34 | to | 04.45 |
| Bristol    | 21.31 | to | 04.54 |
| Glasgow    | 22.07 | to | 04.32 |
| London     | 21.22 | to | 04.44 |
| Manchester | 21.42 | to | 04.41 |
| Nottingham | 21.50 | to | 04.28 |

## HIGH TIDES

|                    | AM    | HT   | PM    | M  |
|--------------------|-------|------|-------|----|
| London             | 02:28 | 6.9  | 14:56 | 7  |
| Liverpool          | 12:06 | 9.4  | 00:30 | 9  |
| Avonmouth          | 08:03 | 13.0 | 20:24 | 13 |
| Hull (Albert Dock) | 07:05 | 8.6  | 19:27 | 8  |
| Greenock           | -     | -    | 13:36 | -  |
| Dun Laoghaire      | 12:25 | 4.2  | 00:50 | 4  |

## AIR QUALITY

|           | NO <sub>2</sub> | Pollen   | O <sub>3</sub> |
|-----------|-----------------|----------|----------------|
| London    | Mod             | Mod      | Gd             |
| S England | Mod             | Mod/High | Gd             |
| Wales     | Gd              | Mod/High | Gd             |
| C England | Mod             | Mod/High | Gd             |
| N England | Gd              | Mod/High | Gd             |
| Scotland  | Gd              | Lw/Mod   | Gd             |
| Wales     | Gd              | Mod/High | Gd             |

## SUN & MOON

**Sun rises:** 04.44  
**Sun sets:** 21.22  
**Moon rises:** 05.22  
**Moon sets:** 21.22  
**New Moon:** Today

## WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts dial  
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digits for your area  
indicated by  
the map (right).  
Source: The Met.  
Office. Calls charged  
at 50p per min  
(inc VAT)

## YESTERDAY

### BRITISH ISLES WEATHER

Most recent available figure at noon local time.

KEY: C,cloudy; Cl,clear; F,fair; Fg,fog; H, haze; M,misc; R,rain; S,sunny; Sl,sleet; Sh,showers; Sn,snow;

|             |    |   |    |    |
|-------------|----|---|----|----|
| Abertudeny  | C  | R | 16 | 61 |
| Anglesey    |    |   | 15 | 59 |
| Ayr         | C  | R | 17 | 63 |
| Belfast     | C  | R | 18 | 64 |
| Birmingham  | C  | R | 19 | 66 |
| Blackpool   |    |   | 18 | 64 |
| Bournemouth |    |   | 17 | 63 |
| Brighton    | R  | M | 16 | 61 |
| Bristol     |    |   | 17 | 63 |
| Cardiff     | C  | C | 15 | 59 |
| Carlisle    | Sh | L | 14 | 57 |
| Dublin      |    |   | 16 | 61 |
| Exeter      |    |   | 16 | 61 |
| Glasgow     | Dr | P | 19 | 66 |
| Goucester   |    |   | 16 | 61 |
| Inverness   |    |   | 14 | 54 |
| Ipswich     | C  | R | 17 | 63 |
| Leeds       |    |   | 16 | 61 |
| Leicester   | C  | R | 18 | 64 |
| Liverpool   | R  | R | 18 | 64 |
| London      | R  | R | 18 | 64 |
| Manchester  | R  | R | 18 | 64 |
| Newcastle   | C  | R | 16 | 64 |
| Nottingham  | R  | R | 17 | 63 |
| Plymouth    | C  | C | 19 | 66 |
| Scarborough | C  | R | 17 | 63 |
| Southampton | C  | R | 17 | 63 |
| Southend    | Sh | M | 16 | 61 |
| Stamford    |    |   | 17 | 63 |
| Starnoway   |    |   | 21 | 79 |

## THE WORLD

**ATLANTIC CHART. NOON TODAY**



Low N will slowly fill as it moves slowly eastwards over the next few

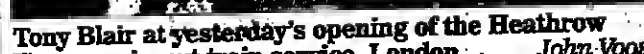
## THE WORLD YESTERDAY


Most recent available figure at noon local time.

[illegible]

**BY RANDEEP RAMESH**  
Transport Correspondent

Leading art  
Review, pa





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Alistair Campbell's appearance at an MPs' committee yesterday was a press event in itself

# The media man who is the message...

BY DONALD MACINTYRE

WHEN SIR Richard Wilson, as Cabinet Secretary the most powerful civil servant in Whitehall, appears before a Commons Select Committee for the first time, it is barely noticed. When Alistair Campbell appears before the same committee, as he did last night it is such a big story that the BBC Today programme does three separate items on it in advance.

All of which Mr Campbell would regard as proving what he frequently and acerbically says in private - that the media is more obsessed with itself than with almost anything else - including the inner workings of government. He may have a point.

He is, nevertheless, the subject which not just the press but the Select Committee is really interested in - with Rhodi Morgan, the committee chairman, solemnly treating the issue of the tapes of Mr Campbell's on-the-record briefings as if they were something out of Watergate. What they are really examining is his power and how he exercises it.

Mr Campbell can dump on journalists who cross him. He has been known to be downright abusive to and about the BBC. He has huge charm and wit - but he can occasionally lose his temper.

As one experienced political editor who deeply admires his skill puts it: "He's like the little girl in the rhyme. When he's good, he's very very good. But when he's bad, he's horrid."

Implicit in both the awe, and the criticism, of Campbell is the fanciful notion that it is his own power he is exercising rather than that of his boss, Tony Blair, we are supposed to infer, would be quite happy - say - for Harriet Harman and Frank Field to thrash out their differences in public.

Don't believe a word of it. True, as one (but only one) of Blair's closest friends and confidantes he has real influence; he will, for example be among the select few consulted on next month's reshuffle. But the authority he exercises in Whitehall is not his own but the Prime Minister's.

Blair, in other words, may seem like a nice, laid-back kind of guy. But that's possible because Alistair Campbell, with Blair's full approval, is sometimes just the opposite.

And to understand the limits of Campbell's alleged omnipotence, consider his famously old Labour views on education. He was personally aggrieved by Harriet Harman's decision to send a son to grammar school. He would probably ideally like grammar schools



What the select committee are really interested in is Campbell's power and how he exercises it John Voos

and public schools to be abolished. But if he said so he would be sacked within minutes. If John Prescott said so, it would cause a huge public debate on the future of education policy; but having a base which is not exclusively dependent on Blair, he would be

highly unlikely to lose his job. It's true that before the local elections Richard Wilson warned Campbell, as permanent secretaries throughout Whitehall warned their departmental press officers, not to use their jobs to score party political points. It's also true

that Tony Blair was being more than a little cavalier when, defending him in the Commons, he commented approvingly that one reason he was under attack was that "he does an effective job attacking the Conservative Party."

That was indeed one of his jobs in opposition, but it's not what the taxpayers have been forking out his £87,000 salary for since the election. But he appears to know that now. Last week he consulted Wilson on whether he was within the rules to brief on Peter Temple Morris's defection to Labour;

including the distinctly dim view that Mr Temple Morris took of William Hague's leadership qualities. Wilson said the case was borderline, and Campbell didn't do it, leaving it to the party to handle.

What he does have is a lot of knowledge. He is Top Secret Positively Vetted - Whitehall-speak for being cleared to receive the most sensitive documents. If a Bosnia war criminal is about to be snatched by the SAS, Campbell will know about it in advance.

The first of several conversations he has with the Prime Minister every day often takes place before he reaches the office at around 7.30am, having read the media brief faxed to his home in South Hampstead about an hour earlier. He never lunches. And because he does have such close relationship with Blair, he has no urge, already working a 100-hour week, to attend at meetings he doesn't have to be at.

He doesn't do everything. One of Blair's undoubted talents is to use horses for courses. Campbell was the right choice to bring the Tottenham boss Alan Sugar over to Labour before the election and to arrange the Japanese Prime minister's famous "apology" in the Sun. He wouldn't be the right man to co-ordinate a government initiative on the performing arts. He did, when asked, as he surprisingly frequently is on such matters, give his opinion who would make a good political editor at the Daily Express.

He would probably admit that he could have handled the notorious Clinton letter on Ulster - which went to the Sun when the Mirror thought it had it exclusively - than he did. And he should have been more open, an earlier, than he was about Blair's famous phone call to Romano Prodi.

But journalists aren't - or shouldn't be - prairie flowers. There are certainly times when they should argue back more than they do. But the best batsmen know how to play spin.

What they get with Campbell is someone with high intelligence and scarcely-rivalled knowledge - more even than Sir Bernard Ingham had of Margaret Thatcher - and, for the most part, a willingness to share it. And they know exactly where he's coming from.

For that, they are probably not playing that heavy a price. When all's said and done he doesn't have all the power routinely attributed to him. He's not a politician, after all. If Blair stood down, he'd be off-perhaps, who knows, to write the blockbuster inside-account of life at the top publishers would die for.

## On message and off message ...

**Alastair likes...**  
Bagpipes. Campbell was taught to play them by his father, a Scottish vet, and at one time he earned extra cash by hushing "The French are much nicer to buskers than the British," he once said, "and they like pipe music."

**Bernard Ingham, Margaret Thatcher's press officer:** "It would be absolutely presumptuous of me to assume

**I'm going to do Bernard Ingham's job.** But if I can do for Tony in opposition what Bernard did for Maggie in office, I would do pretty well," he said after he was appointed.

**Burnley Football Club.** When Campbell held a party at the Reform Club to celebrate his appointment as Blair's press secretary, the chairman and manager of Burnley FC were invited, as well as Neil Kinnock and James Callaghan.

**Alastair doesn't like...**  
Alcohol. As a young reporter Campbell drank heavily but gave up after a breakdown. He once said that on a not untypical day he consumed 15 pints of beer, half a bottle of Scotch and four bottles of wine with David Meller over lunch.

**Pornography.** When Edwina Currie put the parliamentary portcullis on the front of her smutty novel, he said she

should be had up for "bringing the game into disrepute".

**Fists (occasionally).** Campbell famously hit the political editor of the Guardian, Michael White, on the day Robert Maxwell died. At the time he worked for the Daily Mirror. "Mike kept repeating his joke, 'now we know why he's called Captain Bob-bob-bob-bob'. Eventually, I saw a blue mist and lashed out."

## Wit and wisdom

**"Arrogant and over-stuffed."**  
- On the BBC

**"One of the most tedious, silly pieces of television... I thought it was pathetic."**  
- On the BBC's 'Panorama' about spin-doctors

**"Psychologically flawed."**  
- Reportedly on Gordon Brown

**"It's balls that the Prime Minister 'intervened' over**

some deal with Murdoch. That's C-R-A-P."

**"On reports of Mr Blair's phone conversation with the Italian Prime Minister about Rupert Murdoch's bid for an Italian TV station"**

**"There is one reason why the Tories attack the Press spokesman - he does an effective job attacking the Conservative Party."**  
- Tony Blair on Alistair Campbell

# Christie threatened drug testers

BY JOHN DAVISON

LINFORD CHRISTIE yesterday admitted being verbally abusive and physically threatening towards official drugs testers, whose job is to police athletics for drug cheats.

The former Olympic and world sprint champion was also accused of being the "Judy Garland of the 100 metres" over his earlier emotional outbursts in the High Court.

The angry exchanges between Christie and John McVicar, the former armed robber turned journalist, came on the fifth day of the libel trial between the two at the court.

Christie is suing over allegations that he took performance-enhancing drugs during

his distinguished career. McVicar, who is defending himself, quoted from a series of reports from Sports Council testers, known as Independent Sampling Officials (ISO), over Christie's attitude to drug testing.

In one incident in Lanzarote in 1992 Christie had gone "ballistic" said McVicar, when testers paid a late night call to his training camp. An official report later described this as: "The most serious abuse ever experienced and reported by an ISO".

A doctor's report from an incident in Gateshead in 1990

described how Christie had become "excessively excited and agitated" in the doping control room, complaining about being picked on and denigrating the whole testing process. The doctor had justified the regime by saying that he suspected all athletes as possible drug takers.

"He finished by threatening me with physical violence," said the doctor's report.

When this was put to Christie yesterday he replied: "Yes, I did indeed. I believe I could have threatened him."

At an indoor meeting in 1991, when he was Great Britain team captain, Christie was said to have objected "very vocally" after being asked to give a test

after a semi-final race, describing the event as "poxy" and insulting other athletes present. The ISO on this occasion contrasted this "overtly aggressive response" to Christie's public statements in favour of drugs testing.

At another Gateshead meeting in 1993 he called a woman tester "a shit" for not allowing him to take a jog after a race when he was required to give a urine test. He had suggested taking a chaperone to watch him as he said he had done on other occasions.

"I think I did call her a shit" Christie told the court "I think she is a shit because she wouldn't allow me to warm

down". McVicar accused him of using this aggressive behaviour to intimidate the testers.

"I am an aggressive athlete by trade" replied Christie. "I am open to outbursts. I need to be aggressive to run the 100 metres. That's just how it is."

McVicar also accused him of faking emotional outbursts in court, particularly on the first day when Christie broke down in tears and the court had to be adjourned.

"Out came the smelling salts and the lace hanky", said McVicar. "This is the Judy Garland of the 100 metres."

This was a fake and an act, said McVicar. "Just as you try to manipulate the testers with

your aggression, you try to manipulate the jury with your tears."

Drawing his cross examination to a close, McVicar repeated his central allegations and said that Christie's defining characteristic was a will to win at all costs.

"You play to win and will cut any corner to win, and if you thought you could take performance enhancing drugs and get away with it you would," said McVicar. "You would and you have, because modern elite athletics offers an abundance of scope for negating the test by which drugs in sport is regulated," he added.

The case continues.

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## 4/HOME NEWS

22/

SIDCUP  
ABC (054)  
Wedding  
6.25pm, 8.STAPLE  
VIRGIN  
Cricklewood  
5.30pm, 8.  
5.45pm, 8.5.  
5.55pm, 8.  
6.20pm, 9.  
Wedding 8.STREET  
ABC (057)  
The Fall  
6.35pm, 8.  
1.40pm, 6.  
Siding OnODEON  
Stratford  
mon City 0  
8.30pm, 8.  
6.30pm, 8.  
3.20pm, 6.  
Singer 1.1STRATFORD  
NEW S  
HOUSE  
East City 1  
6.15pm, 2.  
3.30pm, 2.  
Brown 4.5.  
4.20pm, 6.  
The DoveSUTTO  
UCI 6  
Monk  
6.15pm, 5.  
6pm, 8.45.  
Of Good  
Museum  
4.45pm, 7.  
7.30pm, 11.  
7pm, 9.30TURNER  
CORON  
Tump  
8.10pm, 8.  
8.25pm, 1.  
6.10pm, 1.LUXURY  
ODEON  
City Of Ar  
The Web  
6.15pm, 1.WALTON  
ABC (08)  
Central 1  
6.30pm, 8.  
Killers 8.  
The Web  
5.55pm.WALTON  
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MonkyDivorce 'does  
not damage'  
most childrenBY GLENDA COOPER  
Social Affairs Correspondent

**CHILDREN WHOSE** parents divorce may show signs of unhappiness in the short term but the majority grow up unscathed with only a small minority suffering long-term problems, a report has found.

With fighting between parents, rather than separation itself, providing most of the problems, the report says society should concentrate on support for the family rather than the institution of marriage itself as divorce rates continue to rise inexorably.

But charities and campaigning groups attacked the controversial study, published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, saying previous studies had shown that parents' separation can scar children for years and that the full problems caused by divorce might not yet be known.

The major review of more than 200 British research studies, spanning more than 30 years, has concluded that while for a couple of years children may have difficulties such as bed-wetting, bad behaviour and low self-esteem, most children grow out of this and develop normally.

It also challenges some widely-held views on divorce, saying that the age at which children experience separation is not important, there is no consistent evidence to show boys are more badly affected than girls, and absence of a parent figure is not the most influential feature of separation or a child's development.

More than half of couples who divorce have children under 16 and if recent trends continue, one in five children born to married couples will experience parental divorce by the age of 16. However, these figures may underestimate the true rate of family dissolution as they do not include the separation of cohabiting couples.

As the immediate distress starts to fade, most children settle down and develop normally. "Most children are fine after a short period," said Dr Jan Pryor, from the University of Auckland and one of the authors of the report. In a small minority, however, there is a greater probability of poor outcomes which reach into adult

## THE COST OF A BROKEN HOME

Studies on divorce and children over the past three decades have seen a range of differing views

■ In 1993, the National Child Development Study of 11,000 children born in 1958 concluded that children who lost a parent through death did not under-perform in the same way as the children of divorce.

■ In 1994 a Exeter University study of 152 children found children from broken families had worse health, suffered psychological problems, were more likely to need extra school help at school, had more trouble socialising and suffered low self-esteem.

■ In April 1997 a Queen's University of Belfast study of 37 children said marriage breakdown took a heavy toll on the physical and emotional well-being of teenagers because of the stresses of changing house, school and domestic arrangements.

■ In October 1997, a British Psychological Society study of 400 children in South Wales said family break-up turns teenage boys towards aggression, delinquency and crime. The report said teenage boys had more trouble coming to terms with divorce or separation.

■ Later in 1998, a combined study of more than 15,000 children born between 1945-70 whose parents separated found that they suffered an educational disadvantage, were more likely to attend special schools and had problems with schoolwork.

life - and these are often twice as common as they are among children whose parents have stayed together.

Factors which put children of separated families at increased risk include those who live in poor households, leave school without qualifications, leave home while young and have children as a teenager.

Family conflict, whether before, during or after separation, is particularly stressful for children who may respond by becoming anxious, aggressive or withdrawn. "Children find conflict difficult and distressing," said Dr Pryor. "Our message to parents is to keep children away from it. Children can observe conflict and be drawn down into it. One of the most damaging things is when parents use children as go-betweens. We would say avoid that kind of conflict."

Julia Cole of Relate said that children could recover from divorce if it was settled amicably and if parents continued to act with sympathy and understanding. "But that's an awful lot of ifs," she added.

"Confidential divorce or separation can cause tremendous damage where parents argue or use children as pawns in their games. There is considerable evidence to show children of divorced parents do less

well at school and are more likely to get into trouble with the police or grow up and become divorcees themselves," Ms Cole added.

Jonathan Bartley, general secretary for the Movement for Christian Democracy, said: "The report underlines that marriage is the key to family life and divorce is a far bigger problem than was previously thought. More liberal attitudes have said that divorce is benign, but that is clearly not the case. And we still don't know the long term implications of divorce."

The report concludes that children and parents should have access to professional support at the time of separation. Help in parents coping with distress will make it easier for them to help their children. GPs, teachers and solicitors should be offered information and training to make it easier for them to advise families or guide them towards more specialist help.

Dr Bryan Rodgers of the Australian National University, Canberra, said: "One of the messages is that if children are to be protected against the kind of disadvantages identified by research, then they and their parents will need better information and support before, during and after separation."



Madame Tussaud's waxworks in London, one of the high-profile tourist attractions that went on sale yesterday

Neville Elder

House of wax up for grabs in  
sell-off of top tourist spots

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

THE FAMOUS London waxworks, Madame Tussaud's, was put on the block yesterday in an auction of tourist attractions that includes the London Planetarium and Alton Towers.

The Tussauds group, which runs the sites, was yesterday put up for sale by Pearson, the media group whose interests range from the *Financial Times* to *Baywatch*.

Pearson said it had decided to put the group up for sale after receiving a number of offers for the group. Marjorie Scardino, Pearson's chief executive, said: "We have decided that this is a good time to test whether Tussauds might be even more valuable to a new owner. They will have to offer a good price to convince us that it is." Analysts said the business could fetch more than £300m.

Pearson took over Madame Tussaud's in 1978. Despite com-

petition from other London venues, the prospect of seeing film stars, politicians and leading sportsmen and women recreated in wax has continued to pull in visitors from all over the world. Last year, Madame Tussaud's was London's top tourist attraction, with 2.8 million visitors.

Apart from the London branch, there is a smaller version of the waxworks in Amsterdam and Tussauds is also planning to open new outlets in New York and Las Vegas.

Alton Towers, in the East Midlands, which Pearson bought in 1990, recently launched Oblivion, the world's first vertical roller coaster. Visitors to the park can also enjoy an ice show that features Beatrice Potter's Peter Rabbit.

Tussauds also runs the Lon-

don Planetarium, which is next door to Madame Tussaud's on London's Marylebone Road, and the Rock Circus complex in Piccadilly. Other theme parks include Chessington World of Adventures, and Warwick Castle, a historical museum that hosts medieval battles.

Earlier this month, Tussauds agreed to buy the Thorpe Park complex in Surrey, and just yesterday it sold its 40 per cent shareholding in the Fort Aventura theme park outside Barcelona for £56m. All in all, the Tussauds ventures attracted 12.9 million visitors last year and made a profit of £22.3m.

Analysts reckon the group could attract a number of high-profile buyers. Time Warner, the US media giant, might be interested, as might Universal, the Hollywood cinema group.

In Britain, First Leisure, the nightclub and wine bar opera-

tor that also owns Blackpool Tower, may be interested. Rank, the Hard Rock Café owner and bingo operator, is also understood to have had a close look at the business.

But industry observers say the Tussauds management team are most likely to win the auction, with the support of a team of venture capitalists.

It may seem puzzling that Pearson wants to sell such a successful business. But the group has recently decided that it wants to concentrate on its media assets, which include financial and educational publishing as well as television.

Since Ms Scardino took the helm 18 months ago she has sold off the group's ailing computer games business and its consumer publishing arm. Pearson's stake in the Lazard investment banking group is likely to be the next to go.

## WAX FACTS

1. Some 2400lbs of wax has been used in the 365 figures.
2. Sculptors require more than 150 measurements of a subject's face and head to create a life-like portrait.
3. About 500 million people have visited the attraction.
4. It takes six months and costs about £20,000 to make a figure.
5. The building survived a fire in 1925, an earthquake in 1931 and some of the worst bombing of the Blitz in 1940.
6. Only real human hair is used on figures.
7. Joanna Lumley is the most touched waxwork.
8. The most photographed figures are those of Diana, Princess of Wales, and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Identity swap trial is told of  
daughter's suicide theory

BY KETTER NUTBALL

THE ENGLISHMAN who traded his identity for a cow life in Canada only to drown on his return to the UK could have committed suicide, said a key witness at a trial into his alleged murder.

Sheena Walker, 22, daughter of the accused Albert Walker, told the jury that the dead man Ronald Platt had been depressed prior to his body being dredged from the sea off Torquay by a fishing boat. She admitted telling police investigating the case that Mr Platt could have committed suicide.

She told the jury: "He was so disappointed at being back in this country. He was depressed

about several things. He would go on and on about how he hated being in England. It was a huge disappointment that things didn't work out in Canada."

Miss Walker also said that Mr Platt disliked water, that he couldn't swim and that he did not like boarding boats, "even large ones".

Meanwhile Exeter Crown Court also heard that the trawler skipper who discovered the body had considered dropping it overboard instead of bringing it ashore - because he knew that he would be unable to sell fish caught in the net

with the corpse if he alerted the authorities.

John Copik, skipper of the *Malkerry*, said: "I asked my son what we should do with the body. I said we could drop him back into the sea and forget about it or we could bring him in. My son said we should bring him in."

Mr Copik also admitted giving away a key piece of evidence in the investigation - an anchor, which the prosecution alleged was used to pin Mr Platt to the seabed.

The anchor had been trawled up in the net with the body, but the fisherman gave it to a colleague Derek Mered-

ith on the Brixham quayside after mooring that day. "He said it would be handy for his speedboat," said Mr Copik.

Later Meredith's partner took the anchor to a car boot sale, but it was not sold and was later recovered by police.

Albert Walker, 52, from Woodham Walter, Essex, had assumed Mr Platt's identity to escape financial and marital problems in his own country, it has been claimed.

He befriended looper Mr Platt, 51, and partner Elaine Boyes and gave them air tickets to make a new life in Canada in 1993.

Wheo Platt returned to



Albert Walker, accused

Britain in 1995 after failing to make a go of things in his new country. Walker killed him, the Crown has alleged.

Luminous food could light the  
way to future cancer treatmentBY CHARLES ARTHUR  
Technology Editor

IT COULD spell the beginning of the end for birthday candle makers. An American company is making cakes, iced drinks, cosmetics and even water that glows in the dark, using light-emitting enzymes derived from deep-sea jellyfish, squid and shrimp.

The system could also have medical uses for identifying any cancerous cells left after surgery, said Tony Campbell of the University of Wales, who is working with Prolume, the Pittsburgh-based company. "You would add these chemicals to the body and the cells would turn red or blue, depending on whether they were cancerous or not," he said yesterday.

Professor Campbell, a medical biochemist, is a partner in Prolume, which this week

demonstrated foods incorporating flavourless "bioluminescent" chemicals. Those can be added to edible substances, having already been tested for toxicity, said Gene Finley, the company president. "We've done one- to three-month toxicology studies in rodents and it seems to be safe," he said.

The Prolume system combines enzymes made naturally by deep-sea animals which have to generate their own light because sunlight cannot penetrate far enough under the sea. The Prolume team has isolated the animals' genes which produce those light-generating chemicals.

Professor Campbell said:

"For a cake or drink, you would add a chemical to make it luminous, and that would last for some minutes - perhaps up to half an hour. You would need to dim the lights to see it - but it could be ideal for birthday cakes."

A cancer detection system is still some years off, but Professor Campbell reckons that success in the consumer market for Prolume could help fund such important medical uses.

Anyone worried that food which goes in luminous might emerge the same way has no cause for concern, said Professor Campbell. "The active proteins would get degraded during digestion, like any other," he said. "Though I suppose we would have to investigate that."

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# Police bias against pregnant officers

SOME OF the country's most senior women police officers have spoken out about sexist and discriminatory treatment by male colleagues, particularly against female officers with children.

The officers, including one of the country's two women chief constables, reveal that some female colleagues keep their pregnancy a secret from their promotion boards for fear of their careers being blighted.

They also disclose that some male officers have told them that they should not be working mothers.

The comments come as a growing number of women officers are taking legal action against their forces for sexual discrimination and harassment.

At the same time, there are a record number of women being appointed to the most senior jobs, although only two of the 51 forces in Britain are run by a woman. There are 10 women among the 230 most senior police ranks in Britain.

Elizabeth Neville, who was appointed the Chief Constable of Wiltshire last year, told *Policing Today* magazine that on her first day back to work as an inspector after giving birth to her first child in 1984, her chief superintendent said: "I think what you're doing is wrong, [but] I suppose it's none of my business."

After Mrs Neville made it

BY JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

clear it wasn't, he agreed not to mention it again. A year later, she approached her promotion board for the job of chief inspector, but did not declare she was pregnant for fear that it would be used against her. After being promoted she told the chairman of the board who said: "You've taken someone else's place."

She added: "Some senior officers were openly unhappy about me having young children at home. The management of pregnancy wasn't tackled within the organisation."

She said that while the situation has improved there is still a lack of confidence among pregnant officers to declare their pregnancy. She gave the example of a sergeant who last year kept her pregnancy a secret for fear it might affect her promotion chances.

"Although there have been extensive policy changes, there still is not the confidence of the staff in the objectivity of its implementation," she said.

Commander Suzanne Becks of the Metropolitan Police, also speaking to the magazine, said she experienced similar attitudes when she was a chief inspector.

"Certain individuals were open about their prejudice against me working



Judy Davison: Why so few women in armed sections?

and having children," she said. Acting Assistant Commissioner Judy Davison of the City of London Police believes research is needed to examine why so few women work in the traffic or armed response sections.

"Family responsibilities, encouragement, personal choice and childcare may all be inhibiting factors," she said.

On the more general issue of sexist attitudes in the police Mrs Neville said she has encountered few problems since becoming a chief officer, except some people who have not met her before "often mistake me for the wife of the chief constable."

Cdr Davison said she has had to suffer comment in the past such as "even though she

is a woman..." and has been "cold shouldered" by some male colleagues at meeting when she gave them instructions.

While praising her immediate colleagues she was critical of some of the most senior police ranks who "still do not adhere to fair treatment principles and have used gender specific language and shown bad behaviour."

On a more positive side, Assistant Chief Constable Maria Wallis, of Sussex Police, said she had many positive experiences during her career. Commander Carole Howlett of the Metropolitan Police, also argued that developments such as a more objective selection process had been among recent improvements made to the Police Service.

The issue of sexism in the police was highlighted in a 1995 Inspectorate of Constabulary report which stated that discriminatory language and behaviour still continues and there was a "perceived lack of top level commitment to equal opportunities."

Earlier this year, the Inspectorate, in one of its most damning reports in recent times, severely criticised the treatment of women officers at the North Yorkshire force, whose chief constable was forced to resign in January following his handling of a sexual harassment case.



Elizabeth Neville with her children. She did not tell promotion board of her pregnancy Northampton Newspapers

# English fans 'show they are true football lovers'

THEY WERE busy clearing up the streets in Toulouse yesterday morning. Thankfully it was not broken bottles and broken heads they were sweeping up, but damaged fruit and vegetables from the street market in the Boulevard de Strasbourg.

Life is getting back to normal, and despite a few days when the English were in town, Toulouse has escaped the violence suffered by Marseilles.

The local newspaper, sounding hugely relieved, reported: "The magnificent English fans showed

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE  
in Toulouse

last night they are true lovers of football."

The next test, in the northern town of Lens, is on Friday. French military police have already stepped up security, although a spokesman said the English did not appear to have the same "nasty streak" as the Germans who rioted in the city on Sunday. But he said of the English: "We do not know whether the sup-

porters will behave as they did at Marseilles or Toulouse."

His comments came as an unnamed 17-year-old German thug described how a French gendarme was kicked and battered with a beer bottle and a rifle butt. He remains in a deep coma and may be handicapped for life. He is the worst victim so far of the violence which has marred this World Cup. One of his attackers was quoted in one of Germany's biggest newspapers, *Bild*, yesterday, gloating about

the violence in which the officer was hurt. "Anybody who wasn't German got thumped," he said as he described how 50 thugs cornered just three policemen.

In contrast, England's match in Toulouse passed with relatively few incidents. James Rawlinson, the British Consul General in South-West France, said he believed there were four key reasons why Toulouse suffered only minor trouble.

The Prefect, Alain Bidou, (the Government official charged with

overseeing law and order) decided that bars should shut at 11pm, that they should serve beer in plastic glasses and that garages and shops should not sell alcohol after 11pm.

The decision made late-night Toulouse a virtual ghost town. Both on Sunday night and after Monday night's match, there were thousands of (largely sober) England supporters milling around but with nowhere to go. Not even McDonald's was open. It meant that people had nothing to do other than go the cen-

tral square and sing. As most of them didn't know any Romanian victory songs, they soon got pretty bored and went home after an hour.

The second reason was the approach of the police. Police in Toulouse were deployed to be high-profile but discreet. It meant you might not see any police for 20 minutes and then 10 truck loads of riot officers would drive past as if to remind people they were there.

Another factor was the differences between Toulouse and Marseilles,

said Mr Rawlinson. Toulouse is prosperous, calm, Anglophile and rugby-loving while Marseilles is a melting pot of cultures, suffers from high-crime and high unemployment and has a large North African population who feel aggrieved at the way they are treated by the authorities.

Many observers agree the final reason relates to those "magnificent English fans", the real fans who did not want to be tarred with the same brush as those who caused the trouble in Marseilles.

# World Cup - ITV and BBC go for goal

BY PAUL MCCANN  
Media Editor

NEARLY 22 million people watched the last 10 minutes of England's defeat at the hands of Romania on Monday night, giving ITV the best ratings so far in the World Cup Finals. As many as 8 million more may have watched in pubs and clubs.

A surge of electricity demand big enough to power Manchester followed the game and there was a 50 per cent increase in the demand for water as the nation filled kettles and flushed lavatories.

But despite the impressive ratings, few are attributing its success to the quality of its commentary and punditry teams.

A survey running on ITV's own Teletext service yesterday proved to be a bit of an own goal. It showed that 86 per cent of respondents believe that the BBC's line up, led by Des Lynam, is better than Bob Wilson's ITV team.

"ITV had been closing the professional gap until England v Romania," says TV writer Stan Hey, who has watched all 32 games so far. "But then their showbusiness instincts came out and they had embarrassing segments from Romania about vampires from Romania about vampires and haunted castles. ITV even had a bit of *Coronation Street* wishing the team well."

Frank Lampard, the West Ham midfielder, believes the BBC is better than ITV, but for more presentational reasons: "My mum really likes David Goolson. A lot of players take the mickey out of his opinions, but she likes him."

Lawrie McMenamy, who appeared as a TV pundit in five World Cup Finals, refused to be

| SO WHO WON?   |  |
|---|--|
| BBC   | ITV  |
| <b>Team Captain: Des Lynam</b><br>Score: 10 out of 10<br>So smooth he can make money parodying his iconic status in adverts. Like an avuncular uncle in charge of mildly cheeky nephews he sprays perfectly pitched questions and opinions to his team of pundits like a mild superno in the Huddle mould.                        | <b>Team Captain: Bob Wilson</b><br>Score: 3 out of 10<br>Better on the BBC when he was a straight presenter. Expensive transfer to ITV anchorman role left him looking wooden. Attempts at World Cup humour downright embarrassing. Needs to relax into his game and stop describing third world defences as "naive".          |
| <b>Intelligent pundit: Alan Hansen</b><br>Score: 7 out of 10<br>Good head for strategy and spotting the key moves, scrubs up well for the camera, but undone by his almost comical over-the-top punditry. He too has parodied himself in adverts. Prone to off the cuff hyperbole, but so are all football fans so it works well. | <b>Intelligent looking player: Barry Venison</b><br>Score: 4 out of 10<br>Looks the part but has a bad case of the footballer's inattention. Not as bad as Dalglish, but is yet to make a footballing claim he doesn't want to hug. Is never supplied with a decent cross by Captain Wilson so cannot raise his game.          |
| <b>Man of the people: Ally McCoist</b><br>Score: 9 out of 10<br>A TV star in the making who will probably move from sport shows to music programmes if his peroxide hair colour is anything to go on. Cheeky like the goal poacher he is and yet innocently sincere. His interview with Paul could have made grown men cry.       | <b>Man of the people: Terry Venables</b><br>Score: 8 out of 10<br>Reliable old stager, although hampered by suspicion that everyone wishes he was England manager. Looks natural cracking a joke and can talk tactics in clear English. Seems all the better for not being Des Howe. ITV's man of the people last time around. |
| <b>Good-looking Broadcaster: David Goolson</b><br>Score: 6 out of 10<br>Finding it hard to shine as much as his hair, but it could be the clearest sign of things to come. Sometimes his comments are so obvious you almost yearn for the return of Gullit.   | <b>Good-looking Broadcaster: David Gullit</b><br>Score: 5 out of 10<br>Often seems to be taking analysis over the head of the rest of the ITV team, to say nothing of many viewers. Still he looks good, sounds good and his analysis is good. Football is an antidote to the England trust with wave of the rest.             |
| <b>Commentary star: John Motson</b><br>Score: 9 out of 10<br>The fact that this man is a national hero says a lot about the English, the nation that invented trainspotting. An anorak's anorak. Motie manages to inject trivia seamlessly into his commentaries with a subtle touch.   | <b>Star commentator: Brian Moore</b><br>Score: 7 out of 10<br>Assured, confident performance undimmed when commenting on England matches. Tries hard, but fails, to restrain latent English bias. Prone to Partridge-esque information overload telling us there are seven spare balls to save time during throw-ins.          |
| <b>TOTAL: 41</b>  | <b>TOTAL: 30</b>   |

drawn on his preferred broadcaster but bemoans the fact that so many of the "experts" are now so young: "It seems that TV is the preferred career for lads just as they come to the end of their playing career. When I first started doing it in 1974 with Bobby Charlton we were all still in the game as managers."

In ratings terms it is impossible to judge which broadcaster is winning because it is the combination of teams, and the kick-off times of games, that is attracting the fans - not the quality of the pundits.

After the England-Romania game, which averaged 19.5 million viewers according to overnight viewing figures, came the opening Scotland v Brazil game which attracted an average 12 million viewers for its 4.30pm kick-off.

However, because television audiences are measured only in viewers' homes, it is likely that the lunchtime England v Tunisia clash attracted more than its reported 11 million viewers.

Airtime buying agency MediaCom has research which shows that another 12 per cent

of adults watched England's first game at work. A further 12 per cent watched in the pub and a worrying 4 per cent "couldn't remember" where they watched it. MediaCom knew the official figures were wrong because half the audience for England v Tunisia was female - begging the question, where were all the men?

After the home team matches, the most popular games have been evening matches like Germany v USA, watched by 10.6 million on BBC1, and Jamaica v Croatia (9.9 million) on ITV.

Armchair view, page 23



A Save the Children plane delivering supplies in southern Sudan.

Photo: Neil Cooper

# SUDAN CHILDREN'S APPEAL

Today in Sudan, the lives of an estimated 1.2 million people are at immediate risk from starvation. Children are suffering terribly. Right now, food is the priority. Save the Children is urging the international community to support the UN in delivering the food that is needed now to save lives.

We have worked alongside the resourceful people of Sudan through many tough times in the past, but civil war and drought mean that the lives of many children depend, for now, on outside help.

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- supplying high energy biscuits for children
- distributing fishing equipment, seeds, tools and other basic survival items
- training local mobile teams to create and maintain new water sources

- providing experts to the UN World Food Programme to plan how to get the food to those who need it most
- working closely with other charities active in the region to assist in the delivery of food aid and essential relief items.

We believe that the children of Sudan have the right to a childhood, as much as any child of any nation. Whatever you can send will help...

We're pressing for peace as the only long term solution to the problems

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Professor Charles Ssali at the Africa Centre in London, with a bottle of his controversial Aids 'cure' pills

Tom Pilstan

## Doctor earns rebuke for 'Aids remedy'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

A UGANDAN doctor trained in Britain who is selling a vitamin supplement as a treatment for Aids has been publicly rebuked by the Royal medical college, of which he was a fellow.

Professor Charles Ssali, a former ear, nose and throat surgeon in Scotland who now runs an Aids clinic in Uganda, plans to offer his treatment, called Mariandina, through health-food shops in Britain. He claims to have treated 17,000 patients at his clinic over the past five years and obtained an 80 per cent recovery rate.

He told a meeting at the Africa Centre in London on Monday night that he had had patients in Britain who had taken the treatment. "They are friends of mine, they have got Mariandina from me and they are cured. As soon as I have the necessary permits and have made arrangements it will be

available to all those who want it. I will sell it through health-food stores."

Professor Ssali was suspended by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1992 for non-payment of the annual subscription. However, in an unprecedented move, the college last month posted a "Note regarding a Dr Charles Ssali" on its internet website, announcing that he had claimed to have found a cure for Aids and that he had been suspended.

Mariandina is made by Pharmadass, of Greenford, Middlesex, a company supplying vitamins, health food supplements and natural cosmetics to pharmacies and health food stores. It is made exclusively for Professor Ssali to a recipe supplied by him. It comes in three formulations, A, B and J, and costs £80 for a month's supply, four times the average monthly income in Uganda of £14.

The National Drugs Authority in Uganda banned Mariandina last year, arguing that patients were being duped into buying a worthless treatment which left them impoverished and unable to buy food. The ban was lifted after protests from patients and MPs and then reimposed. About £14,000 worth of the pills are currently impounded at Entebbe airport in Uganda.

Professor Ssali is a persuasive speaker and attracted enthusiastic applause from his audience of 100 mostly black Africans in London on Monday night. The treatment, which he describes as an "immune booster", is a combination of vitamins, herbal extracts and micronutrients. He believes it can help Aids in the way that oranges relieved the symptoms of scurvy in the 16th century.

He told the meeting that he was the victim of a conspiracy by the major pharmaceutical companies, who wanted to discredit his discovery in order to protect their own Aids drugs such as AZT and the protease inhibitors, from which they were making large profits.

One woman, who gave her name as Rosalyn, said she had read about Mariandina in the *Nation* newspaper in London and contacted her father in Zimbabwe to obtain a supply of the drug for her 47-year-old aunt who was seriously ill with suspected Aids. "Within four days she had stopped vomiting and started eating again and from then she gradually got better," she said.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Health said that if the doctor tried to sell Mariandina as a treatment for Aids in the UK he would be in contravention of the Medicines Act. "You cannot make medicinal claims for a product without a licence," she said.

## Straw moves on paedophile fears

THE HOME Secretary, Jack Straw, has met worried residents of a small village over fears that the child sex killer Robert Oliver may be moved to a "halfway house" there, it emerged yesterday.

Mr Straw told the villagers that Oliver may be sent to Wing, in Rutland, to stay at Wing Grange rehabilitation centre, a Home Office spokesman said yesterday. The spokesman added that if Oliver went there he would be electronically tagged.

The meeting was arranged after the local Tory MP Alan Duncan, contacted the Home Office over rumours that had been rife in the village.

"The Home Secretary was quite frank with them and said

one of the places under consideration was Wing Grange," the spokesman said. "No firm decision has yet been made."

Oliver was jailed for the manslaughter of Jason Swift, a teenage runaway. Released from prison last September, he was housed out of half a dozen towns before asking Sussex police for protection. He spent four months in a south coast police station for his own protection before going to Blenheim House, a private medium-security unit in Milton Keynes, in January.

The Home Office spokesman said that if Oliver is moved to Wing it will only be as a temporary measure.

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### IN BRIEF

#### Police searching for missing 13-year-old girl find body in river

POLICE SEARCHING for the missing 13-year-old Claire Hart yesterday found a body in a river near the spot where she was last seen. A Cheshire Police spokeswoman said that the sex and age of the body had not yet been determined and forensic experts were carrying out tests at the scene. Claire disappeared last Thursday while walking to school from her home in the village of Eaton.

#### Police deny Lawrence 'coaching'

THE METROPOLITAN Police yesterday denied systematically coaching the officers giving evidence to the Stephen Lawrence inquiry. The denial was made after a "script" used by one witness, Sgt Peter Solley, was obtained by lawyers for the Lawrence family and produced at the inquiry today. Headed "Possible questions you may be asked", the document is colour-coded with red indicating dangerous areas of questioning.

#### Crusader's psalms sell for £2.7m

A 700-YEAR-OLD illustrated prayer book that has never been seen in public was sold in London yesterday for a record £2.7m. The Burdett Psalter - a 13th-century copy of the Book of Psalms that is thought to have been commissioned by a French crusader in the Holy Land - was bought by an anonymous private collector, who paid almost double the estimated value.

#### Government tackles NHS violence

A NEW PLAN for tackling violence against NHS staff was launched by the Government yesterday. Under the programme, every NHS Trust has to set up procedures for recording assaults and draw up targets for reducing violence levels. One in seven of all reported incidents in the NHS involve assaults, which are the third most reported cause of injury after falls and needle accidents.

#### Millennium bug may cripple 999

UP TO A quarter of police forces in England and Wales could suffer serious delays in responding to 999 calls in the year 2000 because of the millennium computer bug, a report by a public spending watchdog warned yesterday. Auditors fear that emergency responses could break down as computer systems fail. Speed cameras, fingerprint systems, files of investigations, surveillance cameras, and police radios could also malfunction.





Children playing at Chestnut Wood School in the London Borough of Lambeth, ranked as the fourth most deprived in Britain

Nicola Kurtz

## Lambeth ready for steep learning curve

Ben Russell reports from a new education action zone

THE STATISTICS alone show the scale of the task ahead for teachers in the London Borough of Lambeth's education action zone.

The borough is ranked as the fourth most deprived in Britain, with unemployment running at around 17 per cent. One in 10 girls get pregnant by the age of 19. Nearly a third of the borough's children learn English as a second language. An average of just 28 per cent of school leavers in Lambeth get five or more good GCSE passes, one of the lowest rates in London.

Leaders of the action zone are hoping to make an immediate impact on schools in the borough when their zone opens for business at the beginning of September. But they have decided against radical changes to the school year, or any dramatic alteration to teachers' contracts.

The Lambeth zone brings to-

gether 25 nursery and primary schools and two secondaries: Stockwell Park and Lillian Baylis, one of the schools "named and shamed" last year by David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment.

The international oil giant, Shell, is putting up £50,000 a year to help fund the project, and one of its senior executives, Clive Mather, will chair its governing forum.

But the zone was drawn up and will be run by Lambeth borough council and a private sector consultancy, the Centre for British Teachers (CBT), "as equal partners".

CBT, a registered charity, runs careers services, teacher training, Ofsted inspection teams and a supply teacher agency.

Tim Emmett, principal plan-

ning director at CBT and co-author of the Lambeth bid, said his company would offer advice on school management and initiatives like after school clubs. "Our role is to provide the consultancy, the leverage and the experience of operating internationally and in other sectors," he said.

CBT is a charity, but is looking at the potential of the zone to expand its business. "The zone concept has created new market opportunities," Mr Emmett said. "CBT is interested in new zones in the future."

Ty Goddard, chairman of education in Lambeth, said he wanted the zone to raise the profile and standing of the borough, as well as school standards. He said: "I feel we have won the educational world cup for Lambeth. What we want to

see is support and respect for teachers and also to redefine the relationship between the education community and the business community."

Some heads, however, said they knew little about what the zone would mean in practice for their schools. One said: "What people want to know is what it will mean on Monday morning or Friday afternoon. That's not clear."

Mr Emmett said it would be up to schools to decide which initiatives in the zone to take up. Meetings to start finalising details would start next week.

Proposals in Lambeth include extending the school day by providing breakfast on the one hand and after-school homework clubs on the other. Schools will also offer help with English for parents.

Headteachers and middle managers in schools will have mentors from business, and officials are planning training schemes for those seeking promotion. Schools will run special arts and sports events and set up school councils.

Every secondary school pupil in the zone will be encouraged to take up the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, and pupils will be asked to act as mentors to younger children to help crack down on bullying.

In the classroom, the zone will focus on literacy, numeracy and science in the borough's primary schools. Within five years the local authority wants to see 80 per cent of 11-year-olds achieving national standards for their age in English and 75 per cent of them achieving a similar standard in maths. There are also targets for cutting expulsions and improving punctuality.

Mr Goddard said: "They are quite simple measures, but they are simple measures parents want and simple measures that teachers want."

## Billie-Jo murder a mystery, trial told

DEPUTY HEADMASTER Sion Jenkins told a court yesterday that he had "no theory" about how his 13-year-old foster daughter was killed.

Mr Jenkins, 40, who denies murdering Billie-Jo Jenkins, told Lewes Crown Court he did not know what had happened when he found his foster daughter's body at the family home in Hastings, East Sussex.

Camden Pratt, QC, for the prosecution, said: "Your daughter, you say, was murdered by a man who came over the back or through the front."

Mr Jenkins said: "I didn't say that."

Mr Pratt: "Isn't that what you believe?"

Mr Jenkins: "I don't know how my daughter was killed. I don't know what I believe. I do not know who murdered my daughter. I don't know how somebody got access to my house. I don't know how somebody went at my daughter. I do not know how that was done."

Mr Pratt insisted: "But you must have a theory."

Mr Jenkins replied: "I don't have a theory. Of course, it interests me how she was killed. I have not got a theory. I have speculated as to how somebody might have got there, but I don't know... I am not a detective. I wanted to help the police."

The prosecution alleges that Mr Jenkins bludgeoned Billie-Jo to death with a tent-peg as she was painting the patio doors of the family home on 15 February last year. He then went on a "pointless" shopping trip with his two older natural daughters Annie and Lottie in order to distance himself from the scene, it is alleged.

Mr Jenkins was also questioned about an incident while Billie-Jo was painting when he showed her how to be tidier with

BY MAXINE FRITH AND PAUL EDWARDS

the paint. The girl climbed on to his shoulders as he was agitated down by the patio doors.

Mr Pratt asked: "How did you react to that?"

Mr Jenkins replied: "With not much of a reaction really. I might have said it wasn't the place or time to be doing it but I wasn't surprised."

Mr Pratt said: "What did you think she was doing? This 13-year-old girl putting her legs over your shoulder?"

Mr Jenkins: "Billie-Jo was in a very ebullient, excited, happy mood. It was jovial. She was just having fun."

Mr Pratt said: "Do you think that in putting her legs over your shoulder she was trying to flirt or tease with you?"

Mr Jenkins: "She was not. Not at all."

Jenkins was later asked to read from notes he had made in the days after the murder in order to help himself make a witness statement to police.

Despite earlier telling the court he could not remember how he had got paint on his fleece jacket, in the notes he says he can remember Billie-Jo laughing when he got paint on his jacket as he helped her.

Mr Pratt said: "May I bluntly suggest to you that there was no laughing or humorous incident when Billie-Jo caused you to get paint on your jacket?"

Mr Jenkins replied: "I understand what you are saying. I cannot be sure how the paint got on my jacket."

Mr Pratt replied: "May I suggest that you got paint on your cuff when you attacked her, not as you suggest?"

Mr Jenkins said emphatically: "And you would be wrong." The case continues today.

### Advertisement Feature

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| 45          | £12.21  | £17.31  |

Male, married, non-smoking public sector employee with 20 year mortgage protection cover

| SUM ASSURED |         |         |
|-------------|---------|---------|
| AGE         | £50,000 | £75,000 |
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| 35          | £8.13   | £11.19  |
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### PRIVATE FIRMS JOIN IN THE BUSINESS OF EDUCATION

The first 12 zones, opening in September 1998: North and East Barusley, 21 schools. Partners include BT and computer giant Bull Information Systems.

South Blackburn and Darwen, 22 schools. Private partners include Blackburn Rovers FC and ICL.

New Addington, Croydon, nine schools. Partners include Edexcel (formerly the London Examinations Board).

South Hereford and the Black Mountains, 22 schools. Partners include Tesco and the Prince's Trust.

Lambeth, 27 schools. Partners include IBM, ICL, National Theatre, Shell International and the Royal Festival Hall.

South and West Leicester, 23 schools. Partners include Leicester City FC. East Middlesbrough, 18 schools. Partners include Middlesbrough FC.



Zone backers: Shell, BT and Newcastle United

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 19 schools. Partners include Newcastle United FC.

Newham, 19 schools. Partners include Arthur Anderson, BT and Tate & Lyle.

Grimby, 17 schools. Partners include World Challenge Expeditions (organises international school trips).

Salford and Trafford, 18 schools. Partners include Barclays Bank, Kellogg's and John Laing Construction. Weston-super-Mare, 23 schools. Partners include McDonald's, NSPCC and educational consultants Nord Anglia.

The next 13 zones, opening in January 1999: Birmingham, Aston and Nechells, 21 schools. Partners include Barnardos.

Birmingham, Kites Green and Sharn End, 15 schools. Partners include Rover, Cadbury and the National Exhibition Centre.

East Brighton, 12 schools. Partners include Gatwick Airport, accountants KPMG and American Express.

East Basildon, 30 schools. Partners include Research Machines (educational computer group). North and West Halifax, 29 schools. Partners include the Halifax.

Hull, Brandholme, 18 schools. Partners include British Aerospace.

Thetford, Norfolk, 10 schools. Private partners include a local business group.

Nottingham, Bulwell, 10 schools. Partners include local business group.

West Plymouth, 20 schools. Partners include British Aerospace, BT and Britannia Ferries.

North East Sheffield, 31 schools. Partners include BT and Yorkshire Water.

South Tyneside, 13 schools. Private partners include Nissan and Rolls-Royce.

Southwark, 13 schools. Partners include Price Waterhouse and the Financial Times. Wigan, 30 schools. Partners include North West Water.

## Herb hopes grow for alcoholics

SCIENTISTS BELIEVE they may have found a herbal treatment to curb excessive drinking. An extract of the yellow flowers of St John's wort, a herb used for centuries to treat melancholia, cut by half the amount of alcohol consumed by a group of heavy drinkers.

The heavy drinkers were rats, selectively bred for their liking for the hard stuff. Researchers from the University of North Carolina who carried out the experiments, plan next to test it on human alcoholics. Dr Amir Rezvani, research associate professor of psychiatry at the university's school of medicine, said: "We don't know yet whether the com-

BY JEREMY LAURANCE Health Editor

pound will work in human alcoholics, but we are optimistic. "Since it is a herb, it should have no side effects or fewer side effects than synthetic drugs. One of the major problems with alcoholics is that

they don't like to take medications that have side effects. St John's wort might be different in that it would just reduce their desire for alcohol."

Dr Rezvani decided to investigate the herb because depression and alcoholism were thought to have a strong biological link. "If it worked for de-

pression, then it might just have a beneficial effect on alcoholism," he said. "Many people think the link may be a deficiency of serotonin, a neurotransmitter in the brain."

The findings were presented yesterday at a meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

The researchers compared the behaviour of rats that were given the extract and another group that was not. All were offered a choice between alcohol and water.

Over a 24 hour period the rats treated with the herbal extract drank half as much alcohol as the untreated animals.

### KEN LIVINGSTONE

*'Although spin doctors are good at spinning about their own omnipotence, when we examine the record, they're not much good'*

—THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 3—



## A bumpy ride down the single-track road of Scotland

YESTERDAY WAS the day I had been dreading. Forty minutes of sheer boredom at Scottish questions were relieved by few moments of parliamentary excitement.

After the heady atmosphere during the age of consent debate the previous evening the House of Commons got back to normal with Scottish members peddling their local hobbyhorses with eyes only on their local newspaper headlines.

David Stewart (Lab, Inverness East, Na h-Eileanan Siar) was concerned about road deaths in his constituency and stimulated other members with Highland courtesies, such as Robert Macdonald (Lib Dem, Caithness).

Sutherland and Easter Ross), to formulate about the need for a policy to deal with single-track roads. Quite what the Government, regardless of complexion, could do about this "problem" escapes me.

We moved onto livelier ground when Eleanor Laing (Con, Epping Forest), fresh from her brave stand in the age of consent debate, homed in on the scandal of direct labour department incompetence in Scottish local government. Mrs Laing is fast becoming one of the Tory women rising stars and packs a powerful scratch.

Tories, frightened of raising sleaze for obvious reasons, are beginning to draw blood by raising the

embarrassments of Labour's record in Scottish local government and Mrs Laing was ably followed up by the other star new girl, journalist turned politician Julie Kirkbride (Con, Bromsgrove), who tackled Donald Dewar, Secretary of State, on abuses by the Labour-controlled East Ayrshire Council.

Mr Dewar would normally have passed the buck on this to his junior minister Cathryn Macdonald but Mr Dewar told the House that "my Hon Friend the member for Western Isles has been sent to France for the Moroccan game".

Mr Dewar then played for time by doing the usual ritual of wishing the Scottish lads well, saying how

## THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

sorry he was that England lost and bumbled as an afterthought, to laughter: "so far as East Ayrshire

is concerned", a few words about enquiries, reviews and the need to await the outcome of something called the "Mackintosh Report".

I am sure Mr Dewar genuinely does want to clean up the Scottish Labour Party and there are clear signs that he is using his substantial influence to this effect but, for the time being, Tories are scoring some runs on this issue, even if, ironically, the Scottish Nationalists are the electoral beneficiary.

The new Tory spokesman, Liam Fox, waded in, to good effect, on his first outing. He is a bright boy, who has had a meteoric rise in the party, having been elected only in 1992. One of Mr Hague's acolytes,

he gave Mr Dewar an awkward time by demanding that no taxpayer in the sleaze councils would have to pay for the incompetence and inefficiencies of Labour town hall bosses. Mr Dewar admitted he could give no such assurances.

Dr Norman Godman (Lab, Greenock and Inverclyde) suggested that reform of the local electoral system was the answer and, in passing, referred to his wife's recent selection as a candidate for the proposed Scottish Assembly. We learned that Mr Dewar is "looking forward to having dinner with you and your wife on Saturday".

Jonathan Sayeed (Con, Mid Bedfordshire) hammered home the

Tory attack by reminding Mr Dewar of Monklands Council, which has a history of nepotism and abuse of public trust. "Were these problems known when Neil Kinnock and John Smith were Labour leaders?" he bellowed.

Mr Dewar, consummate Commons performer, when in the corner simply hurled friendly abuse and ignored the question. "The Hon Gentleman is an early Monty Python without the humour."

Sadly, from my point of view, would have given anything for Monty Python to have enlivened yesterday's proceedings, with or without the humour. Roll on devolution!

## Standards chief quits as Porter's QC

LORD NEILL, the public standards watchdog, has been forced to withdraw from representing Dame Shirley Porter in court amid claims that the move would cause a conflict of interest.

The Chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life had agreed to act as barrister for Dame Shirley, who is facing a £27m surcharge over a "homes for votes" scandal at Westminster City Council.

Lord Neill said in a statement that he had pulled out of the case because of a "perceived conflict" between his role as her lawyer and as chairman of the committee. He had already obtained leave for her to appeal.

"I have advised her that continuing prejudicial comment concerning my representation of her would be damaging to her interest. In the light of a perceived conflict between my two roles such comment would also be likely to impede the work of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, of which I have the honour to be chairman," he said.

Dame Shirley issued her own statement expressing anger at attacks on Lord Neill over the issue.

"I very much regret that as a result of a political vendetta the Court of Appeal will now be deprived of the opportunity to hear his advocacy and argu-

**PUBLIC LIFE**  
BY FRAN ABRAMS  
Political Correspondent

ments on my behalf. Certain Labour MPs who used similar harassing tactics when opposition members on Westminster Council have again ruthlessly used the media to poison the atmosphere around this case," she said.

The announcement came just after MPs voted to write to Lord Neill to ask him to explain his decision to take on the case.

The Commons' public administration committee agreed in private session to make the approach after a request from one of its members, the former deputy leader of the Westminster Council Labour group Peter Bradley (The Wrekin).

Earlier, Mr Bradley said the committee might call Lord Neill to make a personal appearance on the matter. He said the peer should withdraw from Dame Shirley's legal team.

"He may think that conflicts of interest do not arise - that is not how the rest of the world sees it."

It is crucial given his position as the chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life that he is not only above reproach but is seen to be above reproach," he said.

Another senior Labour MP,

David Winnick, welcomed the decision to withdraw, but said Lord Neill should never have put himself in such a position.

"There was clearly a potential conflict of interest. If he had continued as counsel (for Lady Porter), then clearly there would have had to be a question mark over his continuing as chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life," he said.

Lord Neill last week insisted that he was taking the case in the Court of Appeal on the "cab-rank principle" whereby barristers took cases as they emerged.

He said members of the bar did not pick and choose their cases on the basis of the popularity or unpopularity of the case or the client.

Downing Street had responded to growing media unrest over the affair last week by saying that it was a matter for Lord Neill, and not a matter for the Government.

Lord Neill's committee is at present completing its deliberations on a review of the funding of political parties.

The review was launched after the Bernie Ecclestone affair last year when Lord Neill told Labour it should return a £1 million donation from the Formula One boss after he lobbied successfully for an exemption to a ban on tobacco sponsorship.



Lord Neill: "Perceived conflict" in Dame Shirley Porter case Ian Waldie Reuters

## Cook faces telegram challenge

THE FOREIGN Secretary is expected to be challenged tomorrow over his refusal to provide five telegrams about the Sandline affair involving arms to Sierra Leone.

The chairman of the Commons select committee, Donald Anderson, yesterday kept the lid on a furious row in private over the clash with Robin Cook.

Mr Anderson, a Labour MP, announced last night he would be holding a press conference to deliver an interim report after Mr Cook's refusal to submit the telegrams on the ground that it would conflict with the separate investigation by Sir Thomas Legg.

Senior Tories on the committee warned last night that they would not let up. "This will go on. There will be no stopping it now," said one.

Sir John Stanley, the former minister, yesterday angrily confronted Labour members of the committee in private after his questions to Sir John Kerr, the permanent secretary at the Foreign Office, were drawn to a close and the committee adjourned.

Sir John Kerr was left outside the committee after giving evidence on the Treasury's squeeze on the Foreign Office, while the MPs continued their row in private.

The row followed earlier clashes at a hearing between the top civil servant at the Foreign Office and the former Tory defence minister, over the refusal to give answers on the ground that it would conflict with the Legg inquiry into the Sandline affair.

But that same reason was given by the Foreign Secretary when he wrote to the committee refusing the request to see the telegrams which could prove that officials knew about the involvement of British mercenaries in the fight to free Sierra Leone from an armed coup.

At that time Mr Cook said: "The Government cannot disclose information which falls within the remit of Sir Thomas Legg's investigation while it is in progress, because to do so could prejudice it."

It is also Sir Thomas Legg's view that the release of documents now could be damaging to the prospects for the

**ARMS TO AFRICA**  
BY COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

early completion of a comprehensive and consistent report. Yesterday there were attempts to limit the questioning of Sir John Kerr to Treasury cuts in the Foreign Office. He told the MPs that he believed it had been squeezed so much "you can hear the pips squeak".

Wading into a funding row between the Foreign Secretary and Chancellor Gordon Brown, Sir John warned that staff cuts had left many outposts "lacking critical mass".

"There has been a very considerable down-size and there is a danger that down-sizing can be taken too far."

"There are opportunities that the UK should be seizing around the world, which the process of steady downward trend will make it very difficult to sustain," Sir John told the Committee.



Sir John Kerr: had to wait outside committee room

The Foreign Office, Sir John said, had a budget for "free" expenditure - which was not tied into peace-keeping or conflict prevention - of just £70m.

And he told the committee of further budgetary problems caused by the refusal of the United States Congress to pay its \$1.1bn (£680m) debt to the United Nations. That meant Britain was still owed \$41 million as payment for peace-keeping activities. "I suspect it is rising," Sir John admitted when pressed by MPs.

Sir John said the Foreign Office budget had gone down by 14 per cent in real terms since the start of the Major administration, in 1990. If Labour stuck to Tory spending limits it would mean a decline of 24 per cent between 1992 and 2002.

## THE HOUSE



## £5 payment suggested to raise turnouts at elections

VOTERS could be given £5 for marking their crosses at elections to try to reverse years of falling turn-outs, an MP suggested yesterday. Martin Linton (Lab, Battersea), formerly a journalist specialising in elections, made the suggestion to the Home Affairs Select Committee, which is reviewing the electoral system. Other measures considered by the committee to boost turnout - 71 per cent at the last general election - included reform of electoral registration and formal political education in schools. Representatives of the three main parties all expressed opposition to voting being made compulsory.

## Dobson accused in copies dispute

THE TORIES accused Frank Dobson, Health Secretary, of "a blatant breach" of procedure by having photocopied, at taxpayers' expense, a briefing for Labour MPs on NHS waiting lists. Ann Widdecombe, shadow Health Secretary, has written to Sir Richard Wilson, Cabinet Secretary and head of the Home Civil Service, asking whether such "large-scale partisan briefing" was permissible, desirable, or consistent with Civil Service standards. Mr Dobson had earlier said the document was produced, photocopied and distributed by one of his department's special advisers.

## IoD warns on Kyoto costs

HIGHER TRANSPORT costs for firms and lower UK competitiveness could result from the Government's pledge to cut greenhouse gases, Tim Melville-Ross, director-general of the Institute of Directors, said. Measures to cut emissions in the forthcoming "Integrated Transport" White Paper could include moves to discourage the use of company cars, to switch more freight to rail and to encourage workers to use public transport, he said in a speech in London about the impact of the Kyoto deal to cut climate-changing gases.

## Today in the House of Commons

- Welsh Questions
- Prime Minister's Question Time
- Two minute debate on sale of alcohol to young people
- Debate on Human Rights Bill
- Adjournment debate on coastal erosion

## All-party group will work to improve legal status of gays

MPs are to set up an all-party parliamentary group to press for further gay rights reforms after Monday's vote for an equal age of consent at 16.

Evian Harris, a Liberal Democrat MP who had tried to force through extra measures during Monday night's debate, said a group of members from all sides would continue to press for change.

Gays could still be prosecuted for group sex while heterosexuals could not, he said. He is also calling for adults prosecuted in the past for gay sex with 16 or 17-year-olds to have their names removed from the sex offenders' register.

The group will also campaign for equal pension rights and other forms of recognition for gay couples.

Dr Harris said his attempt had been useful, even though it

**CIVIL RIGHTS**  
BY SAM COATS  
AND FRAN ABRAMS

had not succeeded this time. Alun Michael, the Home Office minister, said in Monday's debate that he was sympathetic to calls for a change in the law on group sex. A case is currently being taken to Europe for a man who filmed two others having sex, but the Government is opposing it.

"I will continue to press for an end to discrimination in sexual offences, which waste a lot of court time and in which the state has no interest," Dr Harris said.

The leading Labour member on the new group is expected to be Kallie Mountford (Colne Valley), and a Conservative sponsor will be announced.

The leading gay rights organisation Stonewall, also vowed to continue campaigning for full equality for gay people. It wants to overturn the ban on gays in the military and legislation that prevents advice being given to gay teenagers by local authorities and state schools.

"It is by no means the end of the battle to secure full equality for lesbians and gay men, but it does mark a turning point," said Angela Mason, Stonewall's executive director. "MPs have made it clear they believe the law can no longer discriminate in the way it has for generations."

Peter Tatchell of the gay rights group Outrage said he would also be pushing for legal recognition of same-sex relationships and equal parenting rights for gays and lesbians.

Currently, married couples receive a tax allowance equivalent to £285 a year, but this is not available to gay couples. Mr Rothenberg said same-sex couples also lose out when it comes to inheritance tax.

"The Government has stated it will look at other aspects of the law to ensure equality between gay and straight couples. Perhaps it is time to start looking at again at tax equality for all people in long-term relationships."

A leading tax expert called yesterday for the Government to examine the "current inequalities" in the tax regime that penalise partners in a gay relationship.

Bob Rothenberg, a senior partner of Blick Rothenberg, chartered accountants, said: "If the Government's intention is to promote equality, then it should look to create tax equality too."

Currently, married couples receive a tax allowance equivalent to £285 a year, but this is not available to gay couples. Mr Rothenberg said same-sex couples also lose out when it comes to inheritance tax.

"The Government has stated it will look at other aspects of the law to ensure equality between gay and straight couples. Perhaps it is time to start looking at again at tax equality for all people in long-term relationships."

## Tory MEPs try to block advert ban

WILLIAM HAGUE was last night accused of failing to rid his party of its "sleazy" links to the tobacco industry after Tory MEPs tried to block the European directive banning tobacco advertising in sport and on billboards.

The claims were made by anti-smoking campaigners on the eve of the publication of a dossier alleging that the tobacco companies covered up the evidence of links between smoking and cancer. The allegations were supported by the public health minister, Tessa Jowell, who negotiated the directive signed this week.

**TOBACCO AND SPORT**  
BY COLIN BROWN

"One of their tactics was to table amendments that would drag out the implementation timescale," she said.

"They knew that many of the decisions which had been negotiated were based on a very fragile consensus with no latitude for renegotiation," said Ms Jowell.

The Tories' tactics of using legal challenges would have postponed the advertising ban until British handed over the European Union presidency to the Austrians, who opposed it,

thus effectively putting it off indefinitely.

"The Tories' position is very much influenced by their past financial dependence on the tobacco industry. I think that is the principle motivation," said Ms Jowell.

The Tory opposition to the EU directive was underlined by John Maples, the former Shadow health secretary, who said an EU-wide ban on all forms of tobacco advertising was "unnecessary and potentially unwelcome". Virginia Bottomley, as health secretary, also opposed it.

Last night Clive Bates, of Action Against Smoking, said: "The Tory MEPs were part of the whole effort by the EPP, the Conservative grouping in the European Parliament, to block it with wrecking amendments."

"It is a very sordid story. We thought that the Tories had cleaned up their act, since co-operating with the tobacco industry in the 1992 election, when they used their hoarding sites for posters. William Hague wanted to rid the Tory party of the corrosive, sleazy odour that haunted the party. It seems they are back in the pockets of the tobacco companies," Mr Bates said.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## University student-staff ratio rises

THE RATIO of students to staff in universities was 16.6 in 1995-96, compared to 16.5 in 1994-95, according to Kim Howells, the education minister.

## Increase in education funding

ALISTAIR DARLING, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, told Francis Maude (Con, Horsham) that between 1979-80 and 1997-98 there was a 1.6 per cent increase in real terms of public spending on education.

## Mouse-eared bat an extinct species

THERE IS only one confirmed extinction of a species within the UK during the past 10 years - the Greater mouse-eared bat (*Myotis myotis*), which has been extinct since 1990, the environment minister Angela Eagle told Nigel Jones (Lab Dem, Cheltenham).

## Department of Health cost limits

FRANK DOBSON, the Secretary of State for Health, said that the cash limit for hospital, community health, and related services will increase by £8.6m to £31,392,213,000. The cash limit for the Department of Health, administration, miscellaneous health and personal social services will be reduced by £1.13m to £1,096,377,000. This reduction will allow for the transfer of responsibility of childcare and early years policy. The department's gross running cost limit will be increased by £4.4m to £262,915,000 to allow for additional work pensions, he told Helen Southworth (Lab, Warrington South).





A bottlenose dolphin and calf - infanticide was previously unknown

Reuters

## Dolphins that kill their young make mockery of playful image

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY  
Environment Correspondent

ONE OF Britain's two resident groups of dolphins is killing its own young. In the first behaviour of its kind ever recorded.

They are the same group of bottlenose dolphins in the Moray Firth in north-east Scotland that two years ago were revealed as attacking and killing their small cousins, harbour porpoises. Now the animals have been shown to be killing their own young, in the first example of infanticide recorded in cetaceans - dolphins, porpoises and whales.

Their behaviour was uncovered by a joint team of zoologists from Aberdeen University and vets from the Scottish Agricultural College in Inverness.

The vets carried out post-mortem examinations on five baby dolphins washed up on shore, and found that they had suffered injuries identical to those seen on the porpoises killed by dolphins. They had



A dolphin attacking a harbour porpoise in the Moray Firth



Peter Outten

injuries consistent with being battered, and toothmarks on their sides.

Subsequently, Ben Wilson, one of the Aberdeen researchers studying the dolphins of the Moray Firth, saw two adult dolphins in the sea with a newly dead calf. One of them repeatedly lunged at it, butted it clear of the water with its head, and gripped it in its jaws.

The revelation that dolphins are not always as friendly as we

might like to think will be reported in full in the July edition of the *Proceedings of the Royal Society*; the conclusions of the research are reported in next month's edition of *BBC Wildlife* magazine, out today.

The Moray Firth resident colony of bottlenose dolphins, thought to number about 130 animals, is one of only two around Britain's coasts, the other being in Cardigan Bay. It has become clear in the past few

years that they were occasionally attacking the much smaller harbour porpoises, throwing them clear of the water and battering them to death.

The researchers point out that the dolphin calves that have also been killed are almost identical in size to the porpoises - about a metre and a half long - and think the two types of attacks may be linked, though they do not know why. Infanticide is relatively com-

mon in some of the larger mammals, such as lions and some primates, where males sometimes kill the young of their rivals to increase the chances of their own reproductive success.

It has never been observed in cetaceans before, but in fact it might be widespread, said Paul Thompson, another of the researchers. "They're difficult animals to study. You're only seeing a very small part of their lives. These behaviours could be very widespread but you don't spot them till someone points them out."

The researchers warn that "it may have serious consequences for the viability of small populations".

Asked if people might find the discovery disturbing, Mr Thompson said: "I don't think it devalues people's opinions of dolphins. They're quite remarkable as wild animals and we should respect them for what they are, not what we think they are."

## Vitamin sales ban attacked by MPs

THE GOVERNMENT was last night condemned for accepting deeply flawed advice to ban the sale over the counter of large doses of vitamin B6, which is used by three million women to relieve premenstrual tension or depression.

The damning report by a cross-party select committee of MPs came as an embarrassing blow to Jeff Rooker, the agriculture minister, who is pressing ahead with the new safety limits, and cast fresh doubts on the threat to limit the intake of other vitamins such as vitamin C.

The report also threatened to engulf the Ministry of Agriculture in a new controversy over its "nannyism" in seeking to protect the public from risks in the wake of the beef-on-the-bone ban.

The findings could lead to a reprieve for consumers who regularly take high doses of the vitamin B6 for a range of problems, including premenstrual tension, and who would have to get a prescription for high doses if the new limits are passed.

The MPs urged Mr Rooker to abandon his proposal to limit the sale over the counter of vitamin B6 to a daily dose of 10mg, and seek a voluntary agreement allowing doses to ten times that limit.

They made an extraordinary attack on the "stubbornness" of the Committee on Toxicity in Foods (Cot), which advised Mr Rooker to set the safe limit at 10mg.

The select committee, chaired by Tory MP Peter Luff, said Professor H F Woods, the chairman of Cot, had responded fully to questions by the MPs but it accused Cot of being "curt almost to the point of rudeness" with consumer ob-

BY COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

jections. Describing Cot's advice as "palpably wrong", the MPs said: "We have been dismayed by the stubbornness and defensiveness which Cot has displayed following serious scientific challenges which have been made to its findings."

The committee said: "The crucial error made by Cot was not to establish clear criteria for evaluating the significance of different research data. It failed to establish criteria for distinguishing between good and bad science."

Cot's advice was based on a study of 172 women attending a private clinic who were found to have raised blood serum B6 levels. A total of 103 of the women complained of neurological symptoms including muscle weakness and numbness.

But the Vitamin B6 Scientific Task Group criticised the study for failing to use an untreated control group. Professor Woods told the MPs the study was weak but consistent with other findings, but the MPs said the doubts about the study were "so serious that it is scientifically unjustifiable to use them as the basis for establishing a lowest observed adverse effect level in relation to vitamin B6 intake".

Professor Woods has been appointed to chair the Expert Group on Vitamins and Minerals to review the use of large doses of other vitamins. There was no direct criticism in the report of Professor Woods, but Chris Whitehouse, of Consumers for Health Choice, which lobbied against the limit, said the report had made Professor Woods's position on the new expert group "untenable".

## Gay festival hit by cash crisis

GAY PRIDE, the biggest gay and lesbian festival in Europe, has been postponed this year because of a cash shortage.

The organiser, Pride Events UK, is struggling to raise an extra £25,000 deposit demanded by London's Lambeth Council. A £20,000 fee for the Metropolitan Police for security at the festival and the march also needs to be paid.

Pride Events UK said: "The Pride '98 festival and march have been postponed. Pride Events UK is currently in negotiations with Lambeth Council and the police to reschedule."

The company now expects the event, originally scheduled for 4 July, to take place later, probably in August. Pride Events UK said it had

been posed severe financial difficulties by Lambeth's late decision to raise the deposit for the use of Clapham Common from £50,000 to £75,000.

The council became worried at the growing size of the event and insisted on a maximum capacity of 100,000 - less than half last year's attendance - forcing Pride Events UK to issue 25 tickets for a festival which previously was free. That in turn led to the police charging for the first time for security at the event. So far only about a third of the tickets have been sold.

This is the first time that Pride Events UK has staged the festival, which first took place 27 years ago. The previous organiser went bust following last year's event.

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# 10/HOME NEWS

Homes scandal: Buckinghamshire made 'serious mistakes' over complaints about treatment of patients

## Council told to act on abuse of mentally ill

A COUNCIL finally apologised yesterday to dozens of mentally disabled people brutally abused while in its care following the publication of a damning independent report into its actions.

Buckinghamshire County Council, which last year said it was "proud" of how it handled the case, said it now accepted "serious mistakes" were made. Its social services director, Jean Jeffery, is to take early retirement.

Residents of two private homes run by Gordon Rowe and licensed by the council endured mental, physical and sexual abuse over a period of more than a decade.

But although complaints were made, many families of the residents knew nothing of the scandal until 1994 when *The Independent* exposed a secret report into the offences.

Yesterday, the nine-month inquiry - ordered by the Government after Buckinghamshire refused to act - concluded with 95 recommendations to ensure such a tragedy did not happen again.

Among them was a plea for those who harm or exploit vulnerable adults to face up to 10 years in prison instead of the current maximum penalty of two years. The report also proposed tighter regulations for the registration and inspection of residential care centres and of day services for people with learning disabilities.

Other local authorities should also take note, added Dr Philippe Russell, a community care adviser to the report.

The case was "an important marker in a long process of change within which we are beginning to recognise both the rights of people with learning disabilities as citizens but also to acknowledge their vulnerabilities", says the report.

The inquiry team led by Tom Burgner, a former senior civil

BY LOUISE JURY

servant, found "serious mistakes" were made by the council and its inspectors concerning the homes run by Gordon Rowe and his company, Longcare.

Inspectors failed to investigate concerns raised as early as 1983 when Rowe first applied for registration and again from 1991, when the council began receiving complaints.

"The abusive regime at Longcare should have been exposed and ended earlier," Mr Burgner concluded.

An inexperienced inspection unit failed to investigate prop-

plaints were made.

Although progress has been made in social services provision, Mr Burgner said Buckinghamshire's policies were still flawed.

"The greatest single weakness in Buckinghamshire's services for people with learning disabilities is the absence of strategic direction and visionary leadership within social services and jointly with other key agencies."

Mr Burgner said openness, vigilance and support for staff who blow the whistle on poor practice were needed to protect such residents.

The report also stressed the importance of co-ordination with agencies, including health officials and the police.

Detectives who originally investigated the case did not consider charges under the Mental Health Act, although convictions were eventually secured under that legislation.

Up to 50 residents of Longcare, some with a mental age of only three, are thought to have suffered abuse, ill-treatment or neglect at the hands of Gordon Rowe, his wife, Angela, and some staff. Rowe committed suicide before he could be charged with offences including rape. Angela was jailed for two and a half years.

Yesterday Richard Worrall, the new chairman of the social services committee, said: "When I meet (the families and residents) I want to say to each and every one of them I am very sorry for what you have gone through."

But he said implementing the recommendations would require funding at a time when the authority was facing making cuts to services.

Paul Boateng, the health minister, said he expected Buckinghamshire to act on its "unacceptable failures".

Leading article, Review, page 3

### KEY POINTS

Recommendations for the council and for government:

A new criminal offence of causing harm to or exploiting a vulnerable adult with 10 years' imprisonment maximum penalty.

All complaints should be investigated as a requirement of the Registered Homes Act 1984.

Staff making complaints should receive protection.

Inspection unit should produce standards for residential homes for people with learning disabilities.

Tougher checks on applicants seeking to register to run homes.

Adult protection committees should be set up to co-ordinate action.

There was no systematic accumulation of the evidence.

The report gives much support to families who argued the council should never have allowed Rowe a licence because of complaints made at his previous workplace in Somerset and that it should have been withdrawn when the new com-



Pauline Hennessey believes her sister Janet's health was destroyed by Gordon Rowe's abusive regime at Longcare. Anglia Press Agency

## Victim who paid with her life

JANET WARD is not alive today to benefit from the 95 recommendations laid down by Tom Burgner and his inquiry team. She died in 1996 at the age of 28.

Ms Ward was epileptic and had learning disabilities. The official cause of her death was a seizure. But her sister, Pauline Hennessey, believes Janet never really recovered from abuse at the hands of Gordon Rowe.

If Rowe had not killed himself, he would have faced a string of rape charges that would have laid bare the harsh, bullying and abusive regime of his two Buckinghamshire homes.

Janet Ward would have probably given evidence. Her sister believes she would have proved a most reliable witness over the rape allegations.

Ms Ward believed Rowe

BY LOUISE JURY

when he said he was her boyfriend. "She would say, 'Gordon said he loved me. Why did he hurt me?'"

Eventually, the young woman's health began to deteriorate. She became disruptive and unable to speak. Her family removed her from the home only to discover several months later that she had been abused.

This devastating blow came just two days before *The Independent* revealed that Buckinghamshire social services had kept secret a damning report into the running of the two Longcare homes.

Ms Hennessey, 36, from Halstead, Essex, still believes that the inquiry should have investigated Buckinghamshire's



Janet Ward died after a seizure in 1996, aged 28

initial decision to grant Rowe a licence despite the fact that there were serious question marks over his name.

But as far as it goes, Pauline Hennessey is pleased at the

conclusions of an inquiry she feared would be a whitewash. "But it's important that the recommendations are acted on and followed through," she said.

"Those victims suffered for anything up to 10 years. My one wish is for us to learn from it. Let's prevent it happening to other people."

Many of the families are still in touch through the support group Justice for Longcare Survivors, which Mrs Hennessey helped set up.

"I think a lot of them are so wrapped up with the injustice and picking up the pieces, I don't think they've had time to reflect really," she said.

"In my case, it's a question of trying not to think about it and doing something about it instead. I'm fighting, but I can't think about the things

they did to Janet. It just makes me go cold."

"The fact that they let it continue is what really upsets me, when they could have stopped it so much earlier."

One final annoyance remains. The families were appalled when they were told they could not attend yesterday's unveiling of the report.

"Yet again, it's a classic example of the way Buckinghamshire treat the parents," she said.

"I believe that if Buckinghamshire had said that they were sorry and admitted some responsibility for what happened, most of us wouldn't have taken it further. It was the sheer arrogance. Even after they (Angela Rowe, Lorraine Field and Desmond Tully) were found guilty, they would not say sorry."

## Electronic smog - 'invisible assassin'

IT IS the invisible assassin of computer networks and its latest victims are thousands of travellers on the London Underground, where trains have been delayed by signalling failures.

Electronic "smog" - interference caused by the growth of electrical gadgets such as mobile phones and pagers - is creating havoc with computer-controlled signals being installed on the Central Line.

London Underground admitted yesterday that the phenomenon is hitting its attempt to introduce the state-of-the-art signalling system. The computers have shut down as a fail-safe precaution when communications between the trains and the track have become confused due to the electronic interference caused by external power sources.

A spokesman said that the company intends to install shielding equipment to prevent the electronic smog from creating further problems.

"To an extent the problem has affected all stations on the line but not always to the point that it creates a system failure."

BY STEVE CONNOR  
Science Editor

We don't care where it comes from, we just want to find a solution and to stop the interference," he said.

Power cables on the Underground are thought to be primarily responsible for generating the electromagnetic disturbances that have affected the signalling computers. But laptops, mobile phones and other devices are believed to be making matters worse, the spokesman said.

Electronic smog has been a growing problem because of the inclusion of sophisticated microelectronic circuitry in everything from cars and washing machines to phones and cameras.

Edward Leigh, when he was trade and industry minister in 1993, cited instances of electronic smog causing fatal accidents - a British worker died when a computer-controlled crane dropped its load; robots killed two Japanese workers when the machines ran out of control; and anti-lock brakes would suddenly come into op-

eration on a section of German motorway that ran past a powerful radio transmitter.

Mobile phones have been blamed for interfering with hospital life-support systems and were even credited with disrupting the computers controlling the moving stage sets for *Sunset Boulevard*, the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical.

Airlines warn passengers to switch off mobile phones and laptops at critical stages in the flight because of interference to sensitive navigation computers.

A European-wide directive came into effect in 1996 to curb unwanted emissions of electromagnetic waves from electrical devices. But some experts believe it is failing to stem the growth of electronic pollution.

The best method of shielding equipment against electronic smog is to build a device called a Faraday cage around the equipment, which the military has done for years to protect its command and control systems from electronic jamming. This, however, is cumbersome and too expensive for most civilian computers.

## Grandfather 'threw girl, 3, to death'

A THREE-YEAR-OLD girl was flung to her death from a seventh floor flat by her drunken grandfather after she pleaded to be taken home to her mother, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

A neighbour thought at first that Anthony Volney was throwing a bag of rubbish over the balcony. But, the court was told, it was his granddaughter Sasha Davies, who received terrible injuries and died after spending three days unconscious in hospital.

Sasha, 12 days from her fourth birthday, was meant to have been looked after by Mr Volney on the evening of the al-

BY KIM SENGUPTA

leged murder. She was taken to a club near his home in Kilburn, north-west London, where he had caused trouble after drinking and had been asked to leave.

When police forced their way into his flat after the body was found, Mr Volney, 59, allegedly said: "Oh no, what have I done to her. I should be dead."

He was too drunk to be interviewed that night, but claimed the following day that the girl must have wandered off and fallen from the balcony as he slept.

Dorian Lovell-Plank, QC, for

prosecution, told the court that Sasha had been taken to the flat by her mother, Nadia Davies, and Mr Volney had offered to look after her.

The girl had spent the night with him before and she was happy with the arrangement. At the time he seemed his normal, happy self, said Ms Davies.

Sasha was later taken by her mother and grandfather to a local club, and Ms Davies left her there with him. He was thrown out later and took Sasha with him, dragging her towards his flat. "She was screaming 'I want to go home', and he was saying 'you little s\*\*\*'," said Mr Lovell-Plank.

A woman living opposite the block of flats heard Sasha crying in "a pitiful way", said Mr Lovell-Plank.

"She saw him push the girl so violently that her head collided with a wall of the building. She could hear the impact some 40 yards away."

One of Mr Volney's neighbours described what he saw and heard once Sasha was taken back to the flat.

Mr Lovell-Plank said: "He heard a child in distress and a man who was swearing a lot. He thought the girl sounded terrified. Every time she said something, the man would swear back and she would

scream even more. There was one last scream, then he saw the defendant pick up the girl with both hands and drop her over the balcony."

However, Mr Lovell-Plank said, it was dark and at first he thought it may have been a bag of rubbish.

Mr Lovell-Plank told the jury: "The killing of small children is always upsetting. It makes us angry and can make us emotional. Try if you can to put such feelings to one side."

Mr Volney, of Kilburn, north-west London, denies murdering Sasha Davies on 6 August last year.

The case continues.

## Teleworking revolution gathers pace

AN EXTRA 300,000 employees in Britain started to work from home over the past 12 months as part of the "teleworking" revolution, says a poll published today.

But while high-tech companies are quickly shedding the "bums-on-seats" approach to work, traditionally managed organisations are resisting the change, the MORI survey indicated. The poll, commis-

BY BARRIE CLEMENT  
Labour Editor

sioned by information technology group Mital, found that more than 5 per cent of the working population - some 1.3 million people - now spend part of their working week at home, compared with 1 million in the previous 12 months.

It was found that nearly one in three "knowledge workers",

especially in the financial sector, telecommunications, marketing, sales, professional services and media were now teleworking or planning to do so.

In a booklet published yesterday by the Confederation of British Industry and Mital, it was argued that far more jobs could be partly performed at home with the help of an on-line computer, or even a lap-top and a modem. Strategic Work-

styles, an Oxford consultancy, forecast that 25 per cent of jobs could be the subject of teleworking while the Telework, Telecottage and Telecentre Association estimates that the proportion could be as much as a half of all non-manual jobs.

However, in nine out of 10 businesses where employees are not already teleworking, managements say they have no plans to take up the option.

"Company policy" is cited as the reason.

Paul Butcher, managing director of Mital, said that while Britain was way ahead of continental countries in switching to home-working, we were behind the US.

Mital argues that there are substantial long-term financial advantages for companies, and environmental advantages for the community.

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THE INDEPENDENT  
24 June 1996

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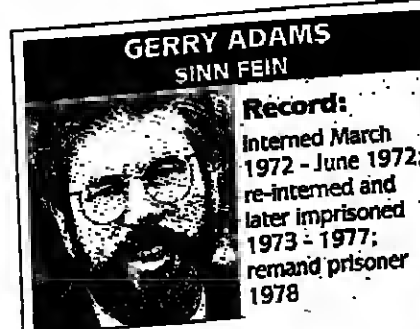
## Informatics Practitioner

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Name:   | Mike French   |
| Job Description:  | Ensure that the rapid planning, design and implementation of a technology solution meets business objectives. |
| Latest Achievement:                                     | Helped Irish Permanent plc develop a system enabling branches to pre-approve mortgages in 20 minutes.         |
| Quote:  | "I am not an anorak; I am a human being!"   |
| Phone:  | Monica Hayley on 0990 454 454   |
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**GERRY ADAMS**  
SINN FEIN

**Record:**  
Interned March 1972 - June 1972; re-interned and later imprisoned 1973 - 1977; remand prisoner 1978

**Life and times:**

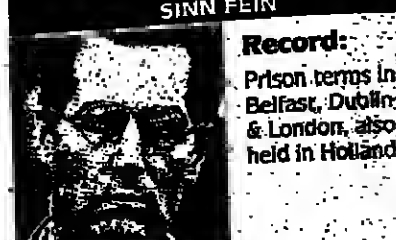
President of Sinn Féin and MP for West Belfast. Wrote of his prison experiences in the book "Cage 11: 'For a while I was an internee, a sentenced prisoner and a remand prisoner, all at the same time.' Released from internment in the summer of 1972 to take part in secret talks with the government. Internment ended in 1975 but he remained behind bars serving sentences for two escape attempts.


**MARTIN MCGUINNESS**  
SINN FEIN

**Record:**  
Never jailed in Northern Ireland but twice imprisoned in the Irish Republic

**Life and times:**

In January 1973 jailed for six months by a Dublin court for IRA membership. In February 1974 same court sentenced him to 12 months on a similar charge. In 1976 IRA membership charges dropped by a Belfast court.


**GERRY KELLY**  
SINN FEIN

**Record:**  
Prison terms in Belfast, Dublin & London, also held in Holland

**Life and times:**

In 1960s escaped from prison in both Belfast and Dublin. Sentenced to life imprisonment for placing car bomb at London's Old Bailey in 1972; almost escaped from Wormwood Scrubs; later escaping from the Maze in 1983. Re-arrested in Amsterdam, returned to Northern Ireland, freed several years ago.


**DAVID ERVINE**  
PROGRESSIVE UNIONIST PARTY

**Record:**  
Four years in the Maze prison in the late 1970s

**Life and times:**

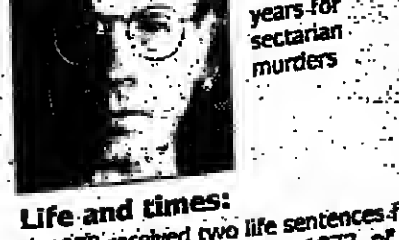
Arrested while transporting an Ulster Volunteer Force bomb. Was forced by troops to defuse it at gunpoint, later jailed. Released in 1980, first standing for election in 1984.


**BILLY HUTCHINSON**  
PROGRESSIVE UNIONIST PARTY

**Record:**  
Served 15 years for sectarian murders

**Life and times:**

In 1975 received two life sentences for the murders of two Catholic half-brothers shot dead on the Falls Road. Was 18 years old at the time of the killings. Released on licence in 1991.


**JOHN WHITE**  
ULSTER DEMOCRATIC PARTY

**Record:**  
Served 14 years for sectarian murders

**Life and times:**

In 1978 received two life sentences for the murders, committed in 1973, of a nationalist politician and a Protestant woman. Released on licence in 1992. Met John Major in Downing Street two years ago.

# The hard men seeking Ulster's votes

ALL OVER Northern Ireland men with serious prison records are banging on doors, pushing objects through letter-boxes and accosting citizens going about their business. Police are doing nothing about this. The reason is that these peo-

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK  
Ireland Correspondent

ple are involved not in illegal activity but in electioneering, seeking seats in the new Belfast assembly whose 108 members will be elected tomorrow.

The Irish peace process means that the assembly will bring together not only conventional politicians but also republicans and loyalists whose previous paramilitary activities led them to long stretches behind bars.

The phenomenon of prisoner-turned-politician is a familiar one in Irish history, and is often regarded not as a disgrace but as a badge of honour. The 1960s terms served by the Rev Ian Paisley were recently commemorated in a new

stained-glass window in his Martyrs Memorial Church. Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, of Sinn Féin, are already MPs, while a number of their Unionist counterparts have also been to jail following protests against the Anglo-

Irish agreement. Mr Paisley's deputy, Peter Robinson, spent some time in prison in the south for a nocturnal incursion across the border. Perhaps 20 republican and loyalist assembly candidates have been to prison, with Sinn

Féin members making up most of these. Republicans have regularly elected ex-prisoners; in 1981 they elected to Westminster Bobby Sands, the IRA prisoner who was at the time on hunger strikes in the Maze.

In recent years, Protestants have shown a greater willingness to follow suit, as can be seen in the rise of parties such as the DUP and UUP, which grew out of paramilitary groups. Figures such as David Ervine and Billy Hutchinson are already Belfast councillors, and stand a good chance of election to the assembly.

What is unusual is that many Catholics say they intend to vote for such loyalist candidates, saying they approve of their transition from the paramilitary to the political.

But for many the idea of transformation is no less difficult and painful because the path is a familiar one. The killings carried out by John White of the DUP took place a quarter of a century ago - 25

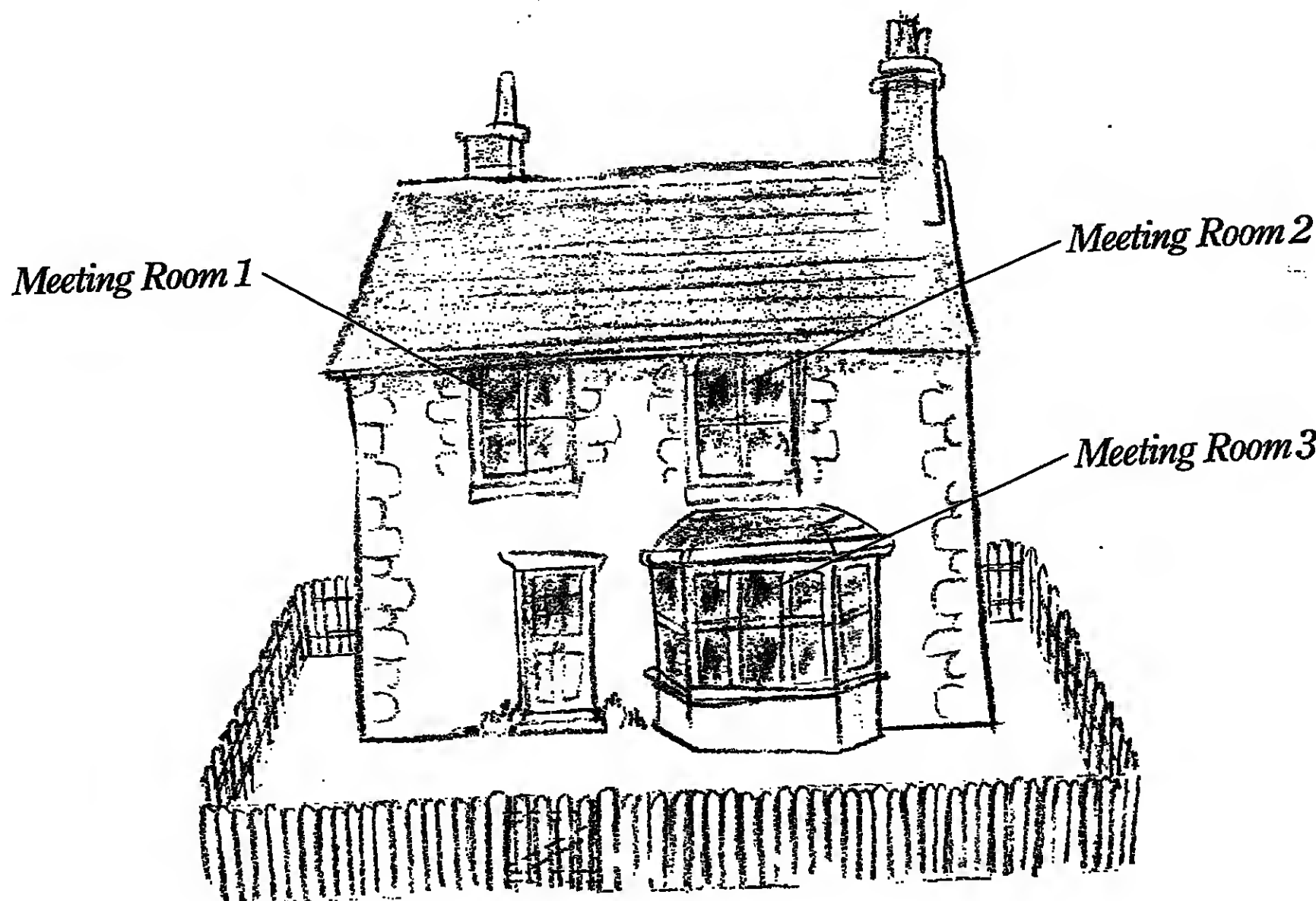
years to the day, in fact, before tomorrow's election.

But the fact the victims were stabbed dozens of times means the killings are remembered as being among the most brutal of the troubles. Two years ago, when John White met John Major, the son of one of those killed said: "When I look at White's face I think about the screams of pain he must have listened to. The screams must haunt him, mustn't they?"

In a rejoinder, Mr White wrote: "I can fully understand the hurt and anger felt towards me. It is natural and I accept it."

"I do not ask him for forgiveness for his father's death, merely for recognition of the fact that my life is now devoted to trying to avoid further suffering - it is often those who have been closest to the conflict who become the most constructive forces. Such positive contribution should not be inhibited; it should be encouraged."

Trimble's Big Idea, Review page 4



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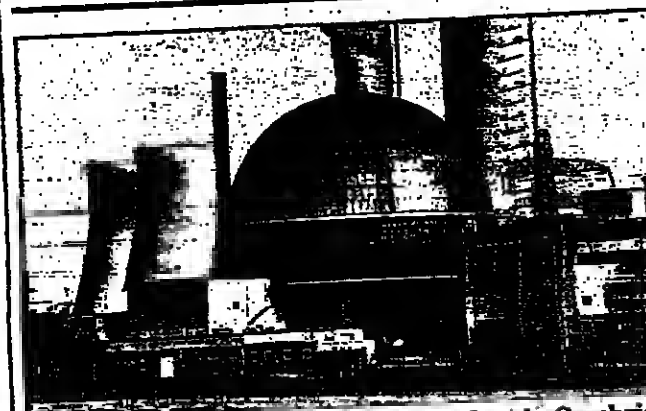
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The Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant in Cumbria

## Councils want curbs on work at Sellafield

MORE THAN 100 councils in England and Wales are so worried about the chances of a devastating nuclear accident at the Sellafield reprocessing plant that they aim to mount a legal challenge to the government's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII), which licences the site.

The 117-strong UK Nuclear Free Local Authorities group joined calls by Gordon Thompson, an American nuclear scientist, for a halt to reprocessing of reactor waste at the British Nuclear Fuels installation. Only that, said Dr Thompson, would substantially reduce the risk of an accident in the 1,000 cubic metres of highly radioactive waste stored in 21 water-cooled tanks at the site.

If an earthquake, operator accident, or terrorist attack occurred the waste could be released, with effects up to 100 times worse than the 1986 Chernobyl reactor explosion. The Irish Sea would be polluted with plutonium, while an explosion could release radioactive caesium that would contaminate anything it landed on.

The nuclear industry and the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate doesn't understand the risks faced by its own industry, but the Chernobyl accident is the precedent," said Dr Thompson.

Local authorities which could be affected by an accident at Sellafield want the NII to publish the data it uses to decide the risks posed by installations. They are considering court action to force such openness.

But a spokesman for the NII, a subdivision of the Health and Safety Executive, said nuclear inspectors' hands were bound by the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act, which prohibits inspectors from releasing any information about sites they examine without the express permission of the sites' owners.

BY CHARLES ARTHUR  
Technology Editor

"It doesn't sound as though there's any abuse of the law by the NII," said a spokesman. "It sounds instead like the councils are calling for entirely new laws, such as a Freedom of Information Act."

Both Dr Thompson and Martin Hemingway, a Leeds councillor who is chair of UK Nuclear Free Local Authorities, attacked the culture of secrecy which pervades the present civil nuclear regime in Britain.

Mr Hemingway said: "NII is the safety regulator and must act in the public interest, not BNFLs, to maintain public confidence. Last week the NII said it was forced to suppress vital safety information about Dounreay reprocessing plant to avoid jeopardising commercial prospects there. The NII could only release its damning report on Dounreay safety because the plant now has no commercial prospects. We fear a similar story of 'tail wags dog' at Sellafield."

"BNFL can stamp 'commercial in confidence' on documents, or assert proprietary rights to basic safety information to prevent NII from releasing it for public scrutiny. We believe that this weakens regulation and prevents public accountability. The Government must review the relationship between regulator and operator."

Dr Thompson, director of the Massachusetts-based Institute for Resource and Security Studies, said the best option would be to stop reprocessing now, and address the backlog of waste that now has to be cooled to stop it overheating.

BNFL has said that the present backlog will not be dealt with until at least 2015. But Dr Thompson said that by stopping reprocessing now, the existing waste could be vitrified by 2007.



China visit: The leaders of two great powers meet with high expectations but little chance of major agreements

# Clinton's mission impossible in China

WHITE HOUSE officials in Washington have presented President Bill Clinton's nine-day state visit to China as the most important foreign trip of his second term, perhaps of his presidency. They give the distinct impression, though, that deep down, they wish it wasn't.

True, they have had less time to prepare than expected. Originally planned for the end of the year, the visit was brought forward at the urging of China. President Jiang Zemin made his state visit to Washington last November, and was reportedly keen that it should be reciprocated sooner rather than later - for reasons of "face".

Yet, no major agreements are on the cards. That peren-

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Washington

opinion has not forgotten or forgiven the events on Tiananmen Square nine years ago. Congress is overwhelmingly hostile to what the majority Republicans see as the Clinton administration's over-indulgence of Peking.

Nor can Mr Clinton count on support from Congressional Democrats. They remember his presidential campaign pitch in 1992, which included contempt for what he saw then as the Bush administration's pandering to an oppressive and corrupt regime in Peking.

Mr Clinton changed his mind about China policy very early in his presidency. Most recently, he told US China-watchers that the alternative to "constructive engagement" - Washington code for dealing with China - was "dangerous isolation". He cited as the benefits of his policy the growth of US business with China, the freedom (in exile) granted to several prominent dissidents, China's diplomatic support in talks with North Korea and following the nuclear tests by India and Pakistan, and the way Peking has resisted pressure to devalue its currency in the wake of the Asian economic crisis.

Mr Clinton must ensure nothing happens during his visit to dispel this impression of progress.

In the US, it is crucial for Mr Clinton not to seem to kowtow to China, especially on human rights. His words and comportment at the welcoming ceremony on Tiananmen Square - easily the most controversial part of his visit domestically - will have to be judged with extreme care.

A visit to relatives of some of the Tiananmen victims, or a private tribute, would be viewed positively in the US; an apology from President Jiang would be even more welcome - but neither looks likely.

The other major topic for the US is trade. The administration and business both have an interest in reducing the large Chinese trade surplus which stands - by US calculations - at \$80bn. But as a champion of free trade Mr Clinton can hardly restrict imports.

Weapons sales are banned under the post-Tiananmen Square sanctions and, Mr Clinton cannot act without other nations.

Bill Clinton's China summit may look more like high-class tourism than the most important foreign trip of his presidency. But if he returns to Washington with an attractive set of videos and no diplomatic *four pas* to his name, this may be as much of a success as the White House dare hope for.



A Chinese boy in Tiananmen Square yesterday shows his enthusiasm for the American president's visit

Reuters

## Peking warms to benefits of PR

FROM THE moment the American president arrives in the former imperial capital of Xian tomorrow, fêted by 800 costumed actors in a ceremony designed for a Tang Dynasty emperor, Peking's main strategy is to showcase its country to the world, and particularly to the American public.

Image-making is high on China's agenda during the eight days Bill Clinton will spend on the mainland, which is just as well because the chance of any significant agreements on trade, geo-politics, or weapons non-proliferation is looking remote.

A breakthrough on China's entry into the World Trade Organisation (WTO) looks off the cards because Peking's latest concessions on market access are still deemed insufficient by Washington.

China's leaders were very keen on a new fourth joint

BY TERESA POOLE  
in Peking

communiqué on Taiwan, but this also has been ruled out. For Peking, Taiwan remains the most important bilateral issue in Sino-US relations, and China's leaders will be pressing for other written commitments from Washington that America opposes Taiwan's independence and its membership of the United Nations.

Peking wants Washington to remove barriers to technology exports, satellite launches, and financial credits, as well as lift the sanctions that still remain following the June 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.

But these issues have been clouded by domestic political

domestic sensitivities that even plans for Mr Clinton to visit various US corporations in China have been removed from the itinerary.

An agreement on nuclear weapons de-targeting is similarly unlikely to emerge. Peking has already made clear it does not support the American proposal that the two countries stop pointing nuclear missiles at each other, arguing instead for a pact on "no first use".

China is, therefore, looking to the visit to shift the world's preconceptions about the country. It wants recognition as a global player in both diplomacy and economics, and points to its decision to keep the yuan stable during the Asian financial crisis.

It also wants to be seen as a fast-modernising country with global clout. The Communist propaganda machine is

thus breaking the habit of a lifetime and attempting a bit of "constructive engagement" with the image-makers - the international media.

Guided tours are on offer this week to a farm, the Capital Iron and Steel Factory, and Peking University, and officials are being wheeled out to explain policies on the environment, village elections, and religious freedom.

It is as if China had suddenly discovered pro-active public relations. And all because its leaders believe that this long-awaited state visit will finally redefine modern China's image in the US, assuaging memories of the blood-stained pavements of June 1989.

For President Jiang Zemin himself, the Clinton visit is a much-sought after prize, far more symbolic in domestic political terms than the Chinese president's successful

trip to Washington last autumn. The Chinese Imperial tradition, after all, is for foreign dignitaries to beat a path to Peking to pay tribute to the Emperor.

In public, China refuses to admit the risks that it is running. By insisting that Mr Clinton's formal welcoming ceremony in Peking take place on the west side of Tiananmen Square, it hoped to demonstrate that it had moved beyond the diplomatic pariah status of June 1989.

In practice, the occasion of Mr Clinton's red carpet guard of honour on Saturday will prompt more television reruns of the shootings nine years ago than any dissident press release ever could.

Mr Clinton's arrival has provided a catalyst for China's disparate pro-democracy activists to organise themselves. They seem embold-

ened by the state visit. Any clumsy detentions of activists by China will eclipse Peking's public relations campaign.

Against this backdrop, and particularly for domestic consumption in the US, Mr Clinton must address the human rights issue in substantive terms in one of his public speeches. That raises the question of whether the Chinese people are going to be allowed to hear what he says, or whether the state-controlled media will be censored.

The one thing that China's leaders may not be able to forgive is if the best-laid summit propaganda plans fall victim to a "bimbo eruption" during the state visit. Mr Jiang wants the world to be focused on Mr Clinton's progress through a modernising China, and not on new revelations about Monica Lewinsky and China's high-profile visitor.

## Jakarta offers East Timor deal

IN A SIGN that the new regime in Jakarta is serious about reaching an agreement on East Timor, the Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas yesterday said his government was ready to give the annexed country special status in a bid to find a lasting solution to the issue that is acceptable to the international community.

Mr Alatas said he had conveyed this to the United Nations secretary-general, Kofi Annan, during a meeting in New York on Thursday.

"For this aim, Indonesia is also ready to discuss the substantial elements of the special status for East Timor with Portugal, under the framework of the tripartite dialogue under the mediation of the UN secretary-general," he said.

Speaking after a meeting with Abilio Araujo of the East Timor Foundation for Reconciliation and Development, Mr Alatas said that he had asked Mr Annan

and his special envoy for East Timor, Jamsheed Marker, to present the proposal to Portugal.

"If necessary, the meeting could be held at the foreign ministers level and not just the senior officials level as in the previous meetings," Mr Alatas added.

The Indonesian President BJ Habibie is due to meet Bishop Carlos Belo, spiritual leader of the East Timor today, a day before the head of state is due to make a key policy address on human rights.

Bishop Belo, won the Nobel peace prize in 1996 along with self-exiled East Timorese leader Jose Ramos Horta for their efforts in seeking a peaceful settlement in the territory.

Indonesia invaded East Timor in December 1975, ending an independence movement that rose from the ashes of a civil war in the wake of Portugal abandoning its colony the year before. Jakarta declared



Alatas: offer of dialogue

East Timor its 27th province in July 1976 in an act not recognised by the United Nations, which still regards Lisbon as being the administering power. Indonesia, Portugal and the UN secretary-general have been carrying on tripartite talks with little results since the

early 1980s in an effort to resolve East Timor's international status.

Mr Alatas said the Indonesian government believes that giving East Timor a special status is the real solution to the issue.

"If Portugal accepts the proposal, Indonesia is ready to discuss with it and the UN secretary-general the substantial elements of the autonomy to be given to East Timor," he said.

He further noted that Indonesia is ready to discuss its policies in making East Timor an autonomous region.

He explained that the autonomy to be given the province will cover a large area but will exclude foreign affairs, finance, and defence and security.

However, jailed East Timorese rebel leader Xanana Gusmao has rejected Jakarta's offers of special status or autonomy, saying only a referendum would solve the issue once and for all.

## Call to release jailed press

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton has been urged to press for the release of journalists imprisoned in China during his visit in an open letter from the French-based organisation Reporters sans Frontières (RSF).

RSF, which campaigns for press freedom, called on Mr Clinton to use his influence during talks with Chinese officials and with President Jiang Zemin, to secure the release of at least 12 journalists jailed in China "simply because they did their work honestly, or expressed opinions peacefully".

The appeal draws his attention in particular to the case of Gao Yu, who was arrested on 2 October 1993 and who is serving a six-year prison sentence for having revealed "state secrets to people outside China", the appeal said.

RSF said it had information that she has life-threatening heart problems and that the only drugs she was allowed were those brought by relatives on monthly visits.

The organisation calls on President Clinton to do everything in his power to persuade the Chinese authorities, as they have undertaken to do, to sign and ratify the UN Declaration on Human Rights, Article 19, which states that: "Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference."

## Nerve gas report hits Iraq's sanctions plea

A REPORT that traces of the deadly nerve gas agent VX were found on Iraqi warheads would - if true - deal a severe setback to Iraq's efforts to lift crippling economic sanctions, Bill Richardson, US Ambassador to the UN said yesterday.

Diplomatic sources yesterday confirmed that chemical analysis of Iraqi warheads handed over to the UN Special Commission revealed traces of VX despite Baghdad's claims that it never successfully manufactured weapons from the nerve gas agent. The head of

BY ROBERT H REID  
in New York

the commission, Richard Butler, is expected to discuss the finding when he briefs the Security Council on Wednesday.

"If this allegation is correct - that will set back Iraq's efforts to try to lift sanctions," Mr Richardson said. "It shows that they've been coming and it calls into question their commitment to disarmament."

The Security Council has said it will not lift sanctions on

Iraq until Baghdad satisfies Butler's team that it has destroyed all weapons of mass destruction. The sanctions were imposed on Iraq in 1990 after President Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, triggering the 1991 Gulf War.

Yesterday, the Washington Post reported that the information on VX is included in a confidential US Army laboratory analysis of warhead fragments taken from a pit at Tall, Iraq, in March.

Analysed at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland,

the samples from the warhead fragments revealed "significant amounts" of VX disulphide and stabiliser, the Post reported. VX is a colourless, odourless liquid that turns into a gas when it comes into contact with oxygen. A few drops of the nerve gas can kill in minutes.

Diplomatic sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed the Post report. They said that Mr Butler presented the Iraqis with the findings during a meeting in Baghdad this month but that the Iraqis rejected them.

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# Sub accident humiliates N Korea

BY ANY standards, it was a humiliation. Late on Monday afternoon, 11 miles off the coast of South Korea, a midget submarine belonging to the North Korean navy ran into serious difficulties.

It may have drifted off course into enemy waters. More likely it was on a clandestine mission, picking up or depositing one of the spies who are believed to regularly infiltrate the South.

Either way, its mission was over. The submarine attempted to surface, its periscope and propeller became hopelessly tangled in the nets of a South Korean trawler.

After the fishermen raised the alarm, South Korean helicopters, spotter planes and war-

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

ships were quickly on the scene.

Last night, after being towed all day through the Sea of Japan, the 70-ton, Yugo-class sub was brought to land at the port of Tonghae, where it slowly sank in 100ft of water. Sonar scans of the vessel's hull detected no signs of movement, although such submarines typically carry a complement of six to 10 people.

"It probably means that the inside is filled with water and that the crew perhaps drowned or suffocated due to lack of oxygen," said Major General Lim Jong Chun of the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff. "The crew may have escaped before the navy was called".

Unconfirmed reports said

that a large bang was heard coming from the vessel as it was being towed, suggesting that the occupants may even have blown themselves up.

For a country like North Korea, whose official propaganda boasts endlessly of its military might, this would be bad enough in itself, but it is not an isolated event.

In September 1996, in the same area of sea and coastline, a larger submarine ran aground, leaving its crew stranded. The massive man-hunt that ensued left 24 North Koreans and 13 southerners dead. Relations between the two countries remained tense for months.

But things have changed since then. In a sign of the new maturity in inter-Korean rela-

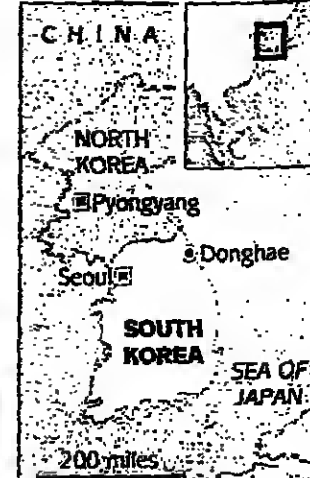


North Koreans at yesterday's UN talks Yun Suk-bong

tions, both sides appeared concerned to play down the latest incident.

North Korean radio, which usually misses no opportunity

to execrate the Seoul government, reported the submarine's fate in unusually calm and detailed terms. The submarine was "wrecked while in training"



that the submarine infiltrated across our coastal sea areas is a clear armed provocation and a violation of the armistice agreement." But a spokesman for the South Korean president, Kim Dae Jung, whose "sunshine policy" of tolerance and engagement has improved relations since his inauguration in February, was more conciliatory.

"The submarine incident will not shake our sunshine policy," he said. "The government will try even harder to embrace the North ... with patience."

In other ways, yesterday was a bright day in inter-Korean relations. For the first time in seven years, British, American and South Korean army officers representing the United Nations held talks with their

North Korean counterparts in the demilitarised zone (DMZ) between the two countries.

Meanwhile, South Korea's most famous businessman, Chung Ju Yung, the founder of Hyundai, returned to the South after an eight-day visit, during which he presented the famine-stricken North with a gift of 500 cattle and reached an agreement to promote tourism from South to North.

Only relatively small numbers of troops appear to have been mobilised to deal with the submarine - in contrast to 1996 when the then South Korean president, Kim Young Sam, dispatched 60,000 soldiers and police to hunt down the escaped crew members and put parts of the country on a virtual war footing.

## IN BRIEF

### Train wheels 'broke in tests'

GERMAN RAILWAY officials knew that high-speed train wheels were at risk of breaking years before the derailment on 2 June caused by a fractured steel tyre, a German television programme reported yesterday. One hundred people died in the crash near Eschede.

According to the ZDF Frontal report, the rim that encircles the wheel broke during tests of the high-speed Inter City Express trains held in the early 1980s.

### Quayle to run for president

FORMER US Republican vice-President Dan Quayle said he is probably going to run for the White House in 2000. "I'm obviously going to wait until 1999 (to announce), but it's likely that I will run for president in the year 2000," Mr Quayle said.

### ETA admits murders

THE BASQUE separatist group ETA yesterday admitted two more killings. ETA said it had killed Tomas Caballero, a councillor from Pamplona, on 6 May and a retired Civil Guard officer, Alfonso Parada, two days later in Vitoria.

### Latvian citizenship 'piecemeal'

RUSSIAN FOREIGN Minister Yevgeny Primakov yesterday described Latvia's decision on Monday to make it easier for the country's Russian minority to become citizens of the Baltic state as "a piecemeal solution".

### MPs to decide Ortega's immunity

THE NICARAGUAN parliament must decide whether to strip former president Daniel Ortega of immunity from prosecution after his stepdaughter Zolamerica Narvaez presented MPs on Monday with sexual abuse charges against the Sandinista leader.

### Beetles eat Bavarian forest

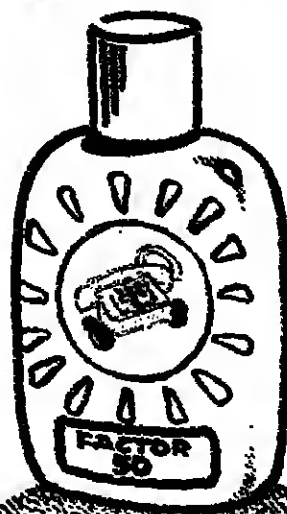
A GERMAN couple who run a restaurant in a Bavarian national park are suing to force the park to combat a bark beetle invasion. Environmentalists say chemicals attacks would harm creatures higher up the food chain.

## CLARE SHORT

*'While the purpose of sanctions is to push governments into better behaviour, it is innocent civilians who bear the cost'*

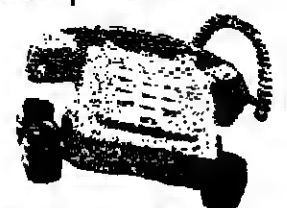
—THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4—

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## Last days of jumbos in Hong Kong

BY STEPHEN VINES in Hong Kong

It will no doubt create a more efficient, state-of-the-art airport. But it will also mean the end of an era not just for those taking planes but for many Hong Kong people who used to climb to the top of the crumbling tenements in Kowloon City, where the airport is situated, to get a fantastic view of the planes at close range.

Some shops in the area offered visits to the rooftops as one of the main shopping attractions, gambling on the hope that plane spotters would buy something on the way down.

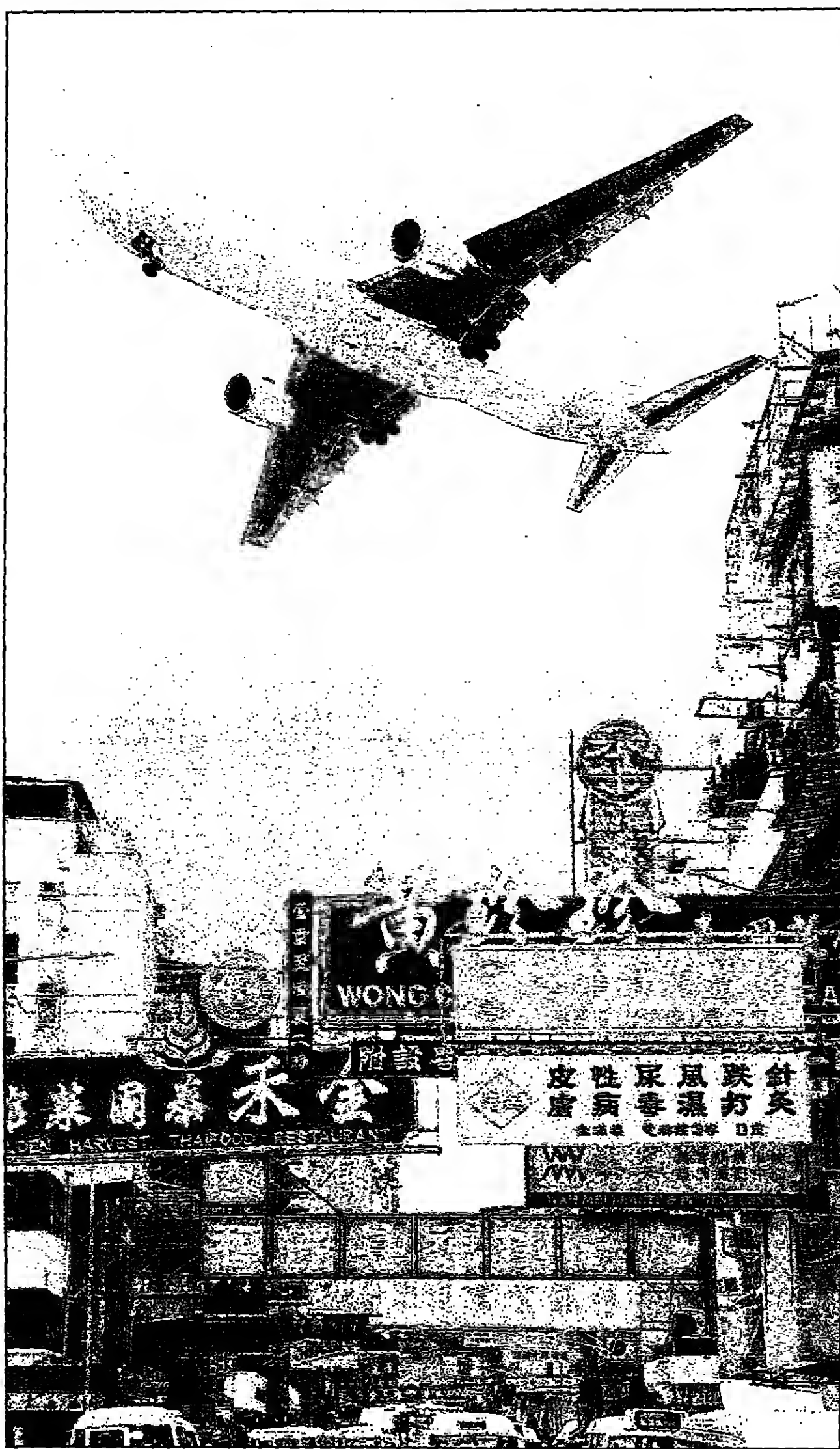
A great many other Hong Kong people have another strong reason to feel nostalgic about the loss of the airport. Until a decade ago the departure hall was filled with school students diligently doing their homework. No one had invited them there, but the good lighting and air conditioning lured these students from poor families, living in cramped and noisy flats. The airport was far from ideal as a study centre but infinitely preferable to their homes.

Finally the authorities decided the children had to go. They were worried that they were giving Hong Kong a bad image.

Strangely, the bureaucrats could not see that the determination and application of these children was giving Hong Kong the best possible image. They demonstrated the will to succeed despite poor circumstances and showed the sense of initiative and opportunism which has made the place flourish.

The people of Hong Kong will have to trek to the island of Chek Lap Kok, north of Lantau, to reach their new airport. Designed by British architects Foster and Partners, it will be the world's largest airport, handling about 35 million passengers a year. It will become operational on 6 July.

The crowds packing into Kai Tak for a last look are expected to peak this weekend. Thanks to the spirit of entrepreneurship which permeates Hong Kong there will be plenty of souvenir offers and special events at nearby eating places to ensure that the last luck is made out of Kai Tak.



A jumbo flies through the housing estates into Kai Tak airport. The new airport opens on 6 July

## Microsoft appeal victory

THE US government suffered a major legal defeat in its campaign against Microsoft yesterday.

An appeal court ruled that Microsoft was quite within its rights to combine its Internet browser with its operating system, the key issue in the government's competition case against Bill Gates' software giant.

Microsoft's enemies argue that it is using its dominance of the market for operating systems - the basic software that makes the hardware in computers work together - to build a dominant position in Internet software. Browsers are the basic software that allows computer users to use the Internet, and Microsoft has slowly edged its rivals, like Netscape, out of the market.

A lower court had granted an

BY ANDREW MARSHALL in Washington

injunction against Microsoft on the grounds that it had tied its Web browser to Windows 95, breaking a 1995 agreement, and fined the company \$1m (£628m) a day. Microsoft had argued that the two were legitimately linked, but the court disagreed.

Yesterday's ruling said that the court had been wrong in the procedures that it had used, and in its argument about the browser.

It ruled that an "integrated product" was one which combined separate functions in a way that was useful for consumers - something which Microsoft has always argued was the case for the Internet browser.

The US Justice Department

has brought a broader competition case against Microsoft, which is set to be heard in September.

The Appeals Court ruling cuts away the ground from under the government. It comes at a propitious time for Microsoft, which this week will release Windows 98, its latest operating system. The main selling point of the new product is that it integrates the computer with the Internet even more tightly.

Though the latest judgement overturns the injunction, it does not prevent the Justice Department from proceeding with its effort to dislodge Microsoft from its position of dominance. Effectively, it throws the case back to the judge who will hear the larger case.

But by undermining the key argument, it will make the

government's proposition even more difficult to argue, and will increase criticism from business that the Justice Department has overreached itself.

The court said that the second, larger case might supercede the narrower issue upon which it had been asked to rule.

It said that the Justice Department "may well regard further pursuit of this case as unpromising, especially given the alternative avenues developing in its recently launched separate attacks on Microsoft's practices."

Whatever the legal niceties, Wall Street clearly thought the judgement was good news for Bill Gates. Microsoft's stock price, which has suffered as the government has assembled its case against the company, leapt by more than three points.

## Psychiatrist's call ends plane hijack

BY ELIZABETH NASH in Madrid

"I GOT my wires crossed," said Javier Gomez, explaining why he had hijacked a Boeing 727 from Seville to Barcelona yesterday with 131 people on board. Brandishing a remote-control "zapper", the 40-year-old Sevillean threatened to detonate a remote-control bomb unless the pilot took the aircraft to Tel Aviv. He forced the plane to land in Valencia for refuelling.

Valencia airport was closed all morning. The government set up an emergency cabinet and the Interior Minister, Jaime Mayor Oreja, rushed to the scene. But after a four-hour stand-off, Mr Gomez, who is undergoing treatment for paranoid schizophrenia and has a police record, gave himself up and all those on board the Iberia aircraft were freed. No explo-

sives were later found on board. The crisis ended when Mr Gomez was persuaded to take a mobile telephone call from his psychiatrist, Ildefonso Mateo, in Seville. "After talking to him for four minutes, he softened and the situation was resolved," Dr Mateo later told Spanish television. Among the passengers was the Mayor of Seville, Soledad Becerril, en route to Lucerne in Switzerland.

The Israeli ambassador to Spain, Ehud Gol, said Mr Gomez first demanded to fly to Athens, then changed his demand to Tel Aviv. The Israeli authorities had said they would not allow the plane to land on their territory.





Mandela: fair redistribution key to peace Tom Pilon

# Mandela calls for land reform

**SOUTH AFRICA'S President Nelson Mandela warned yesterday that only a fair redistribution of land to its former black owners would guarantee peace as the country emerged from apartheid minority rule.**

Mr Mandela was speaking at an emotional ceremony in this sleepy town in the volatile KwaZulu-Natal province, held to mark the handing back of more than 600,000 hectares of land to former black owners.

Mr Mandela, who became president in 1994 in the country's first democratic elections, said the Land Reform Programme that his government had enacted in its first year in power would help right the wrongs of the past.

"Our land reform programme helps redress the injustices of apartheid. It fosters national reconciliation

**BY BUCHIZYA MSETESA in Ladysmith**

and stability," he told a gathering, which included the Zulu King, Goodwill Zwelithini. "It also underpins economic growth and improves household welfare and food security," he added.

The ceremony involved handing back land to about 85 black households, whose land was expropriated by whites during the apartheid era. Up to 25 of the beneficiaries were black women.

Mr Mandela said that his government's land reform, which involves negotiations between the victims of apartheid and the whites who still own most of South Africa's best land, would help create stability by raising living standards.

"The progress we are making in land reform is matched in our efforts to address the poverty that apartheid created," he said.

South Africa's land reform programme contrasts sharply with that of neighbouring Zimbabwe where the government of President Robert Mugabe has given notice that it will expropriate land from white owners without any compensation.

In South Africa, land redistribution is done through the Restitution of Land Rights Act enacted in 1994. This involves buying back land at market value after negotiations between former black owners and white farmers.

Land ownership is one of the most emotive issues in South Africa, where whites make up 13 per cent of the

population but control over 70 per cent of the land.

South Africa's parliament passed legislation soon after the first all-race election in 1994 giving thousands of blacks stripped of their land under decades of apartheid three years to claim it back.

About 23,000 cases have already been lodged with the commission, which is overseeing the restitution of land rights.

Statistics show that up to 400,000 hectares of land have been redistributed back to almost a quarter of a million of former black owners.

But the scheme has its critics, who say land redistribution is not moving fast enough and say the government programme must be speeded up if South Africa is to avoid Zimbabwe's problems.

Ground-breaking land tenure protection to shield black farmworkers from arbitrary eviction by landowners also became law in South Africa in November last year.

The farmworkers, who are mostly black, have been one of the most disadvantaged sectors in the country.

Previously, they had no recourse to the law in cases of eviction, even if their families had worked the same farm land for decades.

Mr Mandela's government is not bent on a confrontational approach with white farmers and businessmen. It is also encouraging new black land owners to join in economic partnerships with white businessmen and former land owners.

■ **AF Johannesburg** — A flight from London to Johan-

nesburg has landed Winnie Madikizela-Mandela in trouble. It began at the British Airways first-class check-in counter at Heathrow Airport last week, when Mr Mandela's former wife tried to board a flight with excess baggage.

When she was told she had to pay £1,000 for extra luggage, she said she had only one-third of the money. After arriving in South Africa, she fired off a letter to the airline, saying she had been travelling first-class on a diplomatic passport and had expected better treatment.

After opposition politicians asked why she had such a diplomatic passport, the government said Ms Madikizela-Mandela was no longer entitled to such a privilege. It had been issued to her when she was a minister, a post she lost three years ago.



Two elderly Romanian women help each other on the main street of the flooded Tirnavea city, 350 kms north of Bucharest. The north-western area of Romania was declared an emergency zone, with up to 15,000 acres of arable land under water. More than 1,000 people have been evacuated.

# Holbrooke seeks last-minute peace

**AMERICA'S trouble-shooting diplomat, Richard Holbrooke, toured Belgrade and other Balkan capitals yesterday in what is being seen as a final warning to Serbia to stop the fighting in its troubled Kosovo province before Nato intervenes.**

Mr Holbrooke's goal was to persuade Serbia's President Slobodan Milosevic, whom he was due to meet last night, to abide by western calls to withdraw his 40,000 to 50,000 police and troops from Kosovo, where armed Albanian separatists have seized control of large swathes of territory.

Earlier yesterday Mr Holbrooke flew into neighbouring Macedonia, which borders Kosovo and Serbia and which fears the fighting over the frontier will destabilise the fragile peace within its borders between the Slav minority and the Albanian minority.

Following talks with the Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov and the Kosovo Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova, Mr Holbrooke said: "We have to prevent the events in Kosovo from escalating into a gen-

**BY MARCUS TANNER**

eral war... that goal will not be easy to achieve. We are pleased that Macedonia is not part of this problem and we strongly support its territorial integrity."

Mr Holbrooke's pessimistic remarks reflect a growing fear that the conflict is too far gone now for a diplomatic solution. Mr Holbrooke - who was recently appointed American ambassador to the United Nations - was widely credited as the force behind the November 1995 Dayton Ohio agreement that ended Bosnia's bloody conflict.

Talk of air strikes against Serbia, which were reinforced by Nato's Secretary-General Javier Solana on Monday, has thoroughly alarmed Serbia's Balkan neighbours, whatever they think of Mr Milosevic's violent attempt to subdue an Albanian insurrection.

"I would like to tell those in comfortable capitals in the West and north who find pleasure in games of war that enough blood was shed because of rashness and ama-

teurishness in Bosnia," the Greek foreign minister, Theodoros Pangalos, said yesterday.

"We saluted Nato's preparedness to prevent the spread of [war] to Macedonia and Albania and the guarantees it gave for our integrity and sovereignty," said Macedonia's foreign minister, Blagoj Handzinski.

Fear of a general Balkan conflagration has united Macedonia and Greece, which were until recently the bitterest of neighbours.

"The countries of the region represent the voice of logic," Mr Pangalos said. "We have the most to win if there is a peaceful solution and the most to lose if there is a war."

Fighting in Kosovo continued as Mr Holbrooke arrived. Serb sources in Kosovo reported yesterday that 800 Serb civilians had been evacuated from one of the few Serb enclaves in Kosovo, 30 miles west of the capital, Pristina near the town of Kila.

They said that ethnic Albanians had driven them out, burning down houses there.

## No let-up in UK arms sales abroad

**BY RUPERT CORNWELL**

BRITAIN GRANTED 2,181 licences for the export of arms to "countries of concern" and refused only 24 during the Labour's first year in power - a period which saw a new and supposedly tighter code of conduct for sales of British-made arms abroad.

The data, compiled by the Saferworld research group, on the basis of Department of Trade and Industry statistics, appears one month before publication by the Government of a promised first official annual report on international arms sales. So loosely defined are the DTI categories that no firm conclusions may be drawn. But the figures do not make reassuring reading.

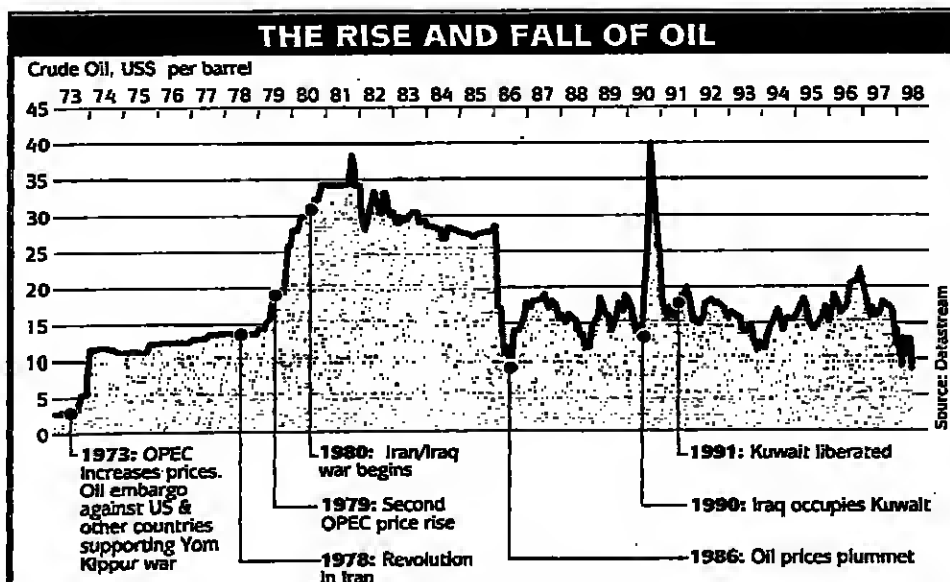
Among 35 listed countries at or near war, or with dubious human rights records, China was granted 36 licences, even though an EU arms embargo has been in force since 1989. "A flood of licences" has gone through for India and Pakistan, and several more for Eritrea, currently fighting a border war with Ethiopia.

Indonesia, Kenya, Syria and Turkey were among countries granted licences covering categories including small arms and machine guns, despite the new British guidelines banning such exports where there is a "clearly identifiable risk they could be used for internal repression". Fifteen licences were allowed for Indonesia alone between March and May 1998.

Saferworld acknowledges that the data does not prove Britain has breached its own guidelines, part of the vaunted "ethical foreign policy".

But, it warns, exactly that impression is created by the lack of transparency in the figures. Clear and precise information in the annual report was essential. If not "public debate will be based on suspicion, not fact".

## Oil states struggle to save their spoils



MINISTERS FROM the 11-member nations of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meet today in Vienna to try to avert the crisis for oil-producing countries caused by tumbling oil prices.

By setting production quotas for its members, Opec tries to manipulate the price of oil, but has found itself increasingly impotent in the oil market of late.

It is far from being the all-powerful cartel it was in the 1970s. A huge increase in production, the Asian economic collapse and the organisation's own inability to hang together has meant that member states are at each other's throats. If they cannot agree to cut production, a further slump in the price seems inevitable.

For Britain, which exports oil but is also an industrial nation, an oil price decline is not a concern. For Asia and the US, it will keep inflation low and boost industry. But it could produce social and political chaos around the world, especially in Latin America and the Middle East.

Russia's income from oil has declined by a third. Even mighty Saudi Arabia is facing

**BY ANDREW MARSHALL in Washington**

severe budgetary pressures, and has borrowed \$2bn from banks. In the good years, surging oil revenues were used to build up welfare states that are now hard to finance.

Opec made a critical error of tactics last November. To take account of existing overproduction by its members, it decided to increase quotas. The market took that as a signal and prices slid.

A warm winter, the onset of the Asian crisis and fears that Iraq would re-enter the market made things worse. Since then, prices have slid from around \$19 a barrel for benchmark Brent crude to around \$14 a barrel. Taking account of inflation and the changing value of the dollar, oil is cheaper than it was in 1973 when Opec made its first effective thrust for market dominance.

The potential saviour was found in the genteel red-brick northern suburbs of Oxford, far from the heat and dust of the Gulf fields. Robert Mahro, head of the Oxford Institute of Energy Studies, was brought in to try to broker a truce between the main players as

they began to realise the depth of the crisis.

Mexico, one of the key non-Opec producers, called him in to chair three-way negotiations with Venezuela, the leading renegade within the organisation, and Saudi Arabia, which dominates world oil production. The result was the first round of concerted oil production cuts in more than 10 years, known as the Riyadh pact.

The pact promised cuts in output of 1.2m barrels a day (mbo), but what materialised was only about 1mbd. When Opec meets again today, it will be looking for further cuts. There are 800,000bpd on the table, but oil analysts believe that more will be necessary to convince the market.

The presence of non-Opec states at the meeting - Russia, Oman, Norway and Mexico - along with the Riyadh Pact may be a signal that a new cartel is assembling. But Norway is set on maintaining its current levels of production. And the credibility of Opec, once an irresistible force, is at an all-time low. It will take an act of rare unity to convince world markets that Opec's once-fabled strength has returned.

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## 16/FOREIGN NEWS

## Breaking the rules as the tango music tugs at the heart

EUROPEAN TIMES  
MADRID

CHAMARTIN STATION is Madrid's Gare du Nord, its King's Cross, hectic and seedy. Passengers here are not bound for glamorous southern beaches but the greyer north, a remote home village on that cruel plain, or further afield beyond the Pyrenees.

Last Sunday, amid criss-crossing travellers scanning the noticeboards, some enthusiasts were dancing the Argentine tango. They had rigged up a sound system and, punctuated with crackly announcements of trains departing for Zaragoza or Santander, the sleazy, soupy wail of the accordion-like bandoneon floated down the concourse.

The surprising thing was not so much the unlikely venue. A station is actually very appropriate for a dance-or, for true fanatics, a philosophy—that is all about restless journeying, longing to return, and wishing you had never gone away. And there's even a bar on hand.

What surprised me was the enthusiasm, the joy and warmth on people's faces as they clung to their partners or watched shyly from the sidelines, minding their bags. Despite the obvious Latin

link, the tango has aroused less passion in Spain than in Germany, Britain or even Finland. I think Spaniards are just not gloomy enough. Tango is about decadence and loss, nostalgia for past happiness, a dance of passion and despair invented by poor immigrants to help them forget a harsh present and a hopeless future. But these couples, some old, some young, were having a whale of a time executing those complicated steps and swivels.

One guy had it to perfection. Thick black hair slicked with "gomina", patent leather shoes, and an expression of grave concentration. Tango etiquette is clear: a woman must never invite a man to dance, and a man will never ask a woman until he's seen her dance. The usual way round this catch-22 is to enlist the help of a male acquaintance to "correr"—a coarse gaucho word for trotting out a horse before potential buyers.

So I was breaking two taboos when I touched this man on the sleeve as he leaned against the station café with a cigarette between his fingers.

"Can you tango?" he asked doubtfully and, just to make sure, led me a few turns behind the Coca-Cola vending machine before committing himself to the full public glare of the impromptu dancefloor.

He was Chilean. "I came to Spain a year ago because I don't like the social situation in my country. I thought this would be a happier place, and it is." And how did he find the tango scene in Madrid? "Fantastic. Most tango dancers who come from South America are couples. I'm single so I get lots of partners."

After a while, the couples thinned out, people picked up their bags and headed for trains and taxis to take them somewhere else.

TWO BIG department stores face each other across the busy intersection near where I live in the heart of town, where the pavements are always crammed with surging crowds. That's no deterrent, rather an encouragement, for a trumpeter who installs himself with this back to the road

and contributes to the hubbub by belting out stirring *poso dobles*. His female sidekick commandeers the other side of the pavement and weaves obstructively amid the human tide until money is extracted.

The trumpeter had an impressive keyboard and amplifier system banked up around him, and closer inspection revealed this to be the source not only of the thumping electronic rhythm accompaniment, but the brassy trumpet melody as well. We were being asked to donate to a tape.

MADRID'S TUBE trains draw two main sorts of musicians: gypsies with tattered accordions and their chant of being unemployed with five children—a plainsong often more tuneful than the ragged jig that follows.

Then there are youngsters from those Andean countries that produce panpipes and brightly woven shawl bags. A cheerful greeting, a burst of "El Condor Pasa" or similar, a trot around with shoulder bag extended, then they huddle out at the next stop. People usually give 25 pesetas, about 10p.

But now and then a gaunt



David Rose

Two women dance a tango in Estacion Chamartin in Madrid

bluesman lurches aboard. No spiel, just haunting guitar and harmonica.

The other day he played the Eagles' lament "Hotel California" as if his heart would

break. His eyes half-closed, his face grey and impassive, he faltered down the carriage like a forgotten yardbird, the only one from that triumphal Sixties season at Richmond Station

Hotel never to star in a night-ier band.

He dipped his guitar before each passenger, and I was not the only one to tickle a torrent of lentil-like small change into

a cigarette packet stuck behind the neck. He tweaked a school-girl memory and a pang of nostalgia that any tango fan would relish.

ELIZABETH NASH



President Boris Yeltsin at the opening of a session of his Cabinet yesterday. At left is Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko, and at right is Gennady Seleznyov, speaker of the parliament's lower chamber. Yeltsin has warned of an impending financial crisis

AP

## Yeltsin risks turmoil with crisis budget

WITH THE International Monetary Fund cracking the whip over his hefty shoulders, Boris Yeltsin declared yesterday that Russia's financial turmoil had reached "alarming proportions" and was causing "extreme social tension".

His remarks are his bleakest assessment to date of a fiscal crisis which has seen investors fleeing Russia in droves, halving the value of stocks, and driving up the cost of government borrowing to astronomical levels.

Yesterday Mr Yeltsin and his Prime Minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, sought to convince the IMF that Russia is deserving of more help—namely, a \$10-15bn stand-by fund to support the rouble—by unveiling a package of austerity measures designed to avert catastrophe.

Mr Yeltsin also appealed to his many foes in parliament for their support, underlining his words with dire warnings about the consequences of squabbling with the Kremlin.

He appeared to hint that if the Communist-dominated State Duma—with whom he regularly battles—fails to pass his fiscal proposals, then he would introduce his measures by presidential decree. Speak-

BY PHIL ROSEVEES  
in Moscow

ing at a rare joint meeting of government and parliamentarians, the president said the crisis is "so acute that there are social and political dangers".

Some proof of this came yesterday with further protests in the Far East by miners, who have been staging protests over unpaid wages and job losses. While some of the causes for Russia's problems were not of its own making, many were, said the president.

"A great deal of the fault lies with us. We have lost momentum in reforming the economy. The situation with payment of wages, pensions and welfare has deteriorated again."

However, the Kremlin's crisis plan—which was spelt out by Mr Kiriyenko—had a familiar ring and will be greeted with cynicism by many Russians.

It includes a simpler tax code and a crackdown on Russia's army of tax dodgers. There would be budget cuts, lower interest rates—now at 60 per cent—less government borrowing, and new regional sales taxes.

The state would raise money by taking control of alcohol production and running lotter-

ies. As he outlined his strategy, the prime minister painted a grim picture of a government engaged in a desperate weekly juggling act—issuing debt to raise funds to pay debt. In the next six months alone, Russia must roll over a breath-taking 189bn roubles—\$30bn—to redeem short-term high-interest treasury bills.

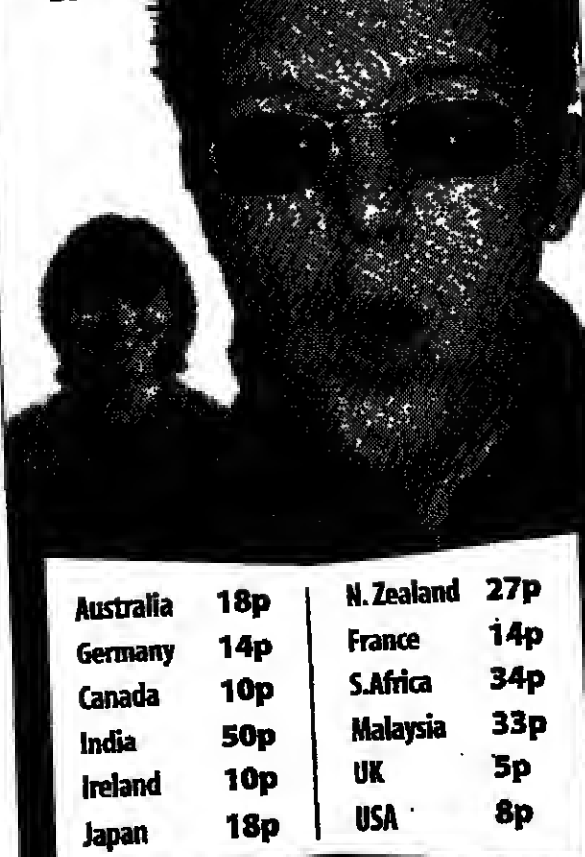
Russia wants the IMF's billions as a "stand-by facility", whose mere presence will restore market confidence in the rouble. Above all else, it has been battling to defend the currency, mindful that its collapse would almost certainly bring a return to runaway inflation, destroying one of the few achievements of the transition from Soviet central planning to a market economy.

Although an IMF team has been wrangling with the Russians over its austerity measures—it has, for instance, been demanding greater efforts to increase its dismal tax revenues—the fund seems set to agree to offer more support in the end.

But its officials will certainly need some more convincing evidence that Messrs Yeltsin and Kiriyenko can translate yesterday's grand words into deeds.

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## Three jailed for National Front killing

BY JOHN LICHFIELD  
in Paris

THREE NATIONAL Front supporters have been jailed for the murder of a black teenager while putting up election posters in Marseilles in 1995. This is the first time that any accredited National Front activist has been convicted of a racially motivated crime.

The trio claimed that they had been paid with stones by a gang of up to 20 black teenagers while they were sticking up posters in the immigrant-dominated northern suburbs of Marseilles. However, no stones were found nearby and the group of teenagers, 10 at most, were carrying only musical instruments.

The dead youth, Ibrahim Ali, aged 17, was shot in the back with a "dum-dum" bullet—the kind of bullet which explodes on impact and which is outlawed by the Geneva Convention.

Evidence presented to the trial in Aix-en-Provence suggested that the murder was racially motivated but not premeditated. The three National Front supporters, armed to the teeth for a foray into what they regarded as enemy territory, panicked when they saw the group of black youths approaching.

The chief prosecutor said that the real blame for the night's events should fall on the



Victim: Ibrahim Ali

National Front itself, and on its "paranoid" ideology which presented all black people as dangerous and the only true French people as "white and blonds".

The *de facto* deputy leader of the National Front, Bruno Mégret made an utterly unapologetic appearance before the court. He spoke briefly of his "compassion" for the victim's family before going on to describe the accused trio as "three Frenchmen who deserve respect and who devoted parts of their lives for the good of others, for the love of their country and the defence of their people".

The man who fired the fatal bullet, Robert Lagier, 66, was sentenced to 15 years in jail. His companions, Mario d'Abrasio and Pierre Giglio, were sentenced to 10 years and 12 months respectively.

## Scientology anger over book ruling

BY ABIGAIL SCHMELZ

LEADERS OF the Church of Scientology and US officials yesterday criticised a Swedish court ruling which will allow the public access to the church's holiest book.

The US-based church argues that the book is reserved for key members of the religion and should be kept secret.

It says international copyright laws should stop the unpublished material from falling into the public domain.

But after the court ruling last week, Swedes are now free to go to places where the document is kept, such as the Swedish parliament, and read the material.

However, the church plans to fight the decision. It has launched a campaign that involves its members borrowing the book constantly, thus making it virtually impossible for anyone else to see it.

Tanja Vulto, a church spokeswoman, said only 300 to 350 of the religion's 8 million members had rightful access to the book.

## German set fire to refugee hostel 'to save village idyll'

BY IMRE KARACS  
in Bonn

Nazi attacks in those days. But the case, reminiscent in its callousness to the pogroms in Nazi times, has provoked outrage across the whole country and beyond.

"I would like to express my deepest apologies for the damage I caused to Germany inside and outside the country," Oste declared at his trial in Frankfurt an der Oder yesterday.

He recalled how he had collected money and paid off the neo-Nazi with the help of an electrician friend who is also on trial. The conspirators even supplied the molotov cocktails, with the help of a local heating engineer.

In his defence, Oste recalled he had been "under pressure" to act, after petitions and po-

litical pressure had failed to thwart official plans to convert a children's holiday home into a refugee hostel.

People in the village were afraid that the newcomers would bring crime into their idyllic, lakeside community, Oste said. They also feared *black helicopters*—left and right-wing extremists. The destruction of the empty building, he added, had not been motivated by racism.

This is the third attempt to bring the masterminds of the Dolgenbrodt attack to book. On two previous occasions the residents pleaded not guilty, but this time one of the two skinheads responsible for the blaze has turned State's evidence, despite the fact that he received more than 10,000 German marks (£2,330) for his services.

## SUZANNE MOORE

'Conflict rather than separation itself is bad for children. Parental death does not carry the same risks for children as divorce'

—THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 5—

## WORLD COVER

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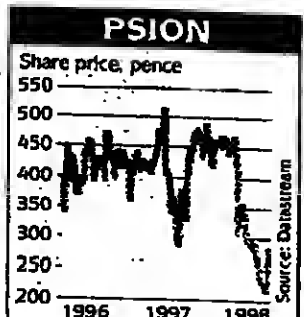


BRIEFING

Nissan to sell truck makers

NISSAN MOTOR, Japan's second-largest car maker, could sell its truckmaking division to German rival Daimler-Benz in an attempt to trim its large debt.  
The company said yesterday that it was planning to reach agreement with Daimler-Benz as early as July on areas of cooperation that could include the sale of Nissan Diesel Motor Co, Japan's fourth-largest truckmaker.  
Nissan holds an industry-high ¥2.5 trillion in interest-bearing debt and plans to trim ¥1 trillion in debt by March 2001.

Psion unveils joint venture



PSION, THE personal organiser manufacturer, is today expected to unveil a joint venture which involves the licensing of its operating system. The group yesterday announced that it was in "advanced discussions" about the creation of a joint venture in the field of Wireless Information Services.  
However, it refused to elaborate on the statement, which it was forced to make after its share price had risen rapidly. Psion has already signed up two unnamed licensees for its operating software, which is known as EPOC32. The group's shares, which have fallen sharply in recent months, were unchanged at 281p.

GWR and allies set to go digital

GWR GROUP and its allies Talk Radio and cable company NTL looked set to launch the UK's first national commercial digital radio stations next year after their group emerged yesterday as the sole bidder for the radio licence.  
The GWR-led Digital One consortium had been widely expected to be the only bidder for the 12-year licence as potential rivals have opted instead to target regional and local permits. Those offerings will include GWR's Classic FM station, as well as Talk Radio and Virgin Radio, plus seven new channels ranging from a plays, books and comedy offering to an all-night club dance station.  
Britain's Radio Authority plans to award the permit in September. The Digital One partners said they have invested a total of about £10m in the consortium, which will launch its services officially in October 1999.

Orange slashes call costs and adds new offers

ORANGE YESTERDAY fired another salvo in the increasingly hostile mobile phone price war by slashing the cost of its off-peak calls and launching a range of other offers to attract new users.  
From next month, Orange users will pay just 5p a minute for off-peak calls, a cut of up to two-thirds on current rates.

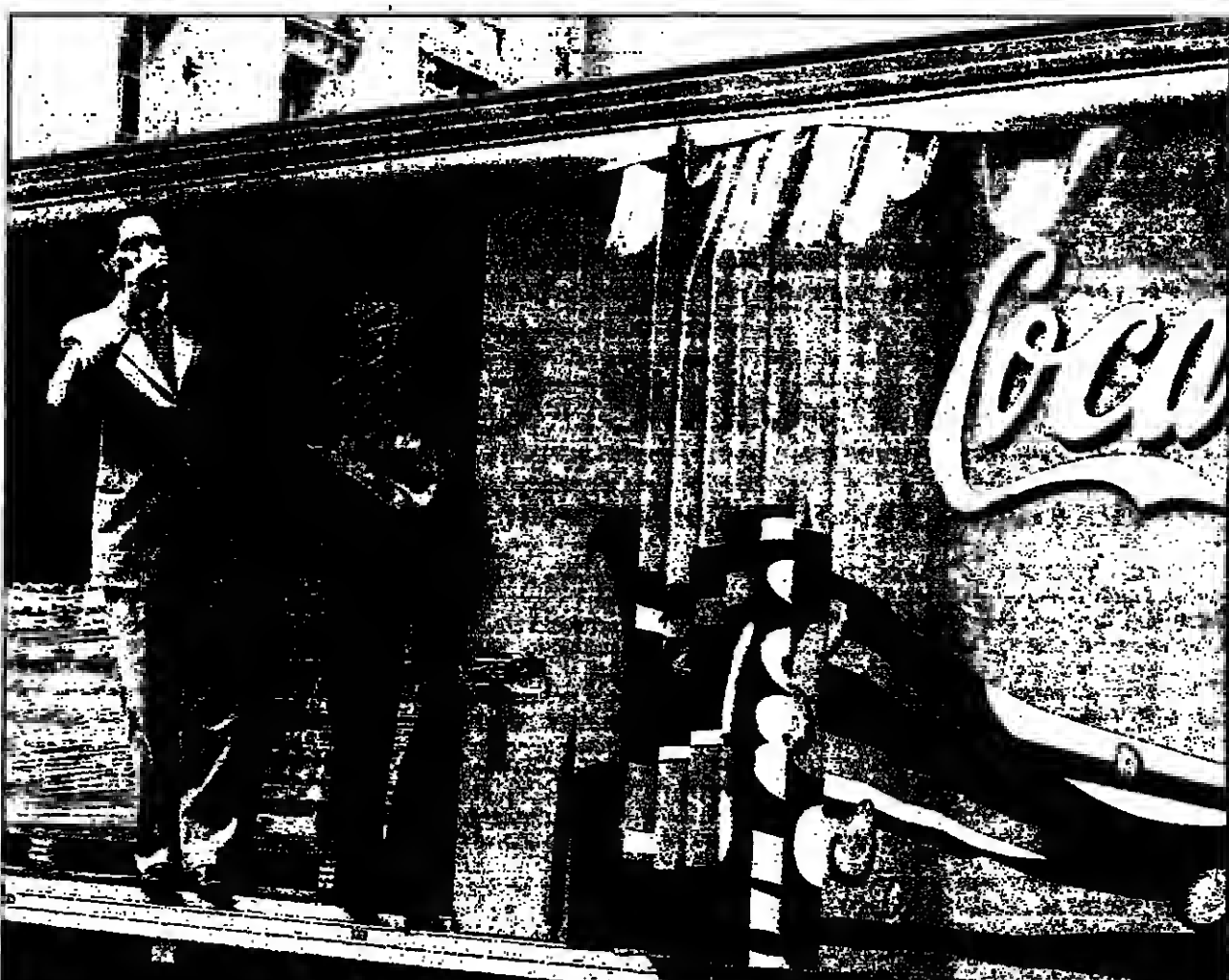
BY PETER THAL LARSEN  
The operator also laid down a major challenge to its rivals with a John Lewis-style guarantee promising to match any tariff which is available on a rival network.  
The move is an aggressive response to recent price cuts introduced by Vodafone and

Cellnet, the UK's two largest operators.  
Hans Snook, Orange's chief executive, said the initiative was designed to clear up the confusion among consumers about call rates. "The message is simple; don't worry," he said.  
Orange shares soared by almost 10 per cent as the company said that its customer

base to the end of May had grown by a net 20 per cent on the previous year. The shares hit a new high of 609p, up 54p.  
However, analysts said they found the market's enthusiasm hard to justify. They pointed out that although the price cuts would stimulate usage, Orange's revenues per user were still likely to fall. "They're

taking a bet that they will attract more new customers," said one analyst.  
Later this year, Orange plans to launch a new service which will compete with fixed telecom lines. Known as Daily Talk, the service will offer subscribers 20 minutes of off-peak calls per day for just 50p. Meanwhile, the company plans to

introduce mobile video phones within the next 18 months.  
Mr Snook said he expected mobile phone penetration to rise to 50 per cent of the population by the 2004 from 18 per cent today. He added that, within the next 10 years, 90 per cent of mainstream communications would take place on a wireless network.



Neville Isdell, chairman and chief executive of Coca-Cola Beverages, and Craig Owens (facing camera) finance director. The company is heading for the London stock market with a price tag of up to £1.7bn on 13 July. Demerged from Australia-based Coca-Cola Amatil, the company produced pro-forma pre-tax profits of £5.8m last year, compared with £14.2m last time.

Foreign holidays put UK trade in the red

SPENDING ON foreign holidays helped send Britain's balance of payments diving into the red by £3.2bn in the first three months of this year. It was the first quarterly deficit for 18 months and the biggest for five years.  
Britons' appetite for holidays and business travel reflected both the strength of the pound and the general buoyancy of consumer spending. With spending on overseas trips up more than £300m at £4.8bn during January to March, it took the UK's travel deficit to a record £1.7bn and accounted for much of a big fall in the traditional balance of payments surplus on services.

BY DIANE COYLE  
Economics Editor  
Much of the balance of payments shortfall, the first deficit since mid-1996, was due to the lumping of payments to the EU in the first quarter. The net transfer to the EU was £1.5bn, compared with a zero transfer in the final quarter of last year. But even accounting for this distortion, the deficit on trade in goods widened, from £4.2bn at the end of 1996 to £4.7bn, mainly because of a sharp drop in exports.

At the same time the Office for National Statistics revised up its estimate for growth in the first quarter, adding to the weight of recent evidence analysts fear will trigger another interest rate rise.  
The unwelcome figures came as an influential report warned that the British economy is in for a bumpy ride, with tougher policies running the risk of triggering a recession at the same time that inflation is heading higher.

But the strong pound is pulling them down like a brick on elastic; they have now shot forward and hit us in the eye," said David Mackie at JP Morgan.  
Despite this drag on growth from a weaker export performance, the ONS revised up a fraction the figures for first quarter growth. GDP was 3.0 per cent higher than a year earlier, up from the earlier figure of 2.9 per cent. Growth during the first quarter, excluding volatile oil production, was revised from 0.5 per cent to 0.6 per cent.

The Bank of England faces a "challenging" outlook, according to the annual health check on the UK from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. "Ensuring a smooth landing will be a difficult task," it concludes.  
The OECD notes there has been a considerable tightening already in tax and spending and interest rate policy. Gordon Brown's budgets amount to the toughest fiscal tightening of any OECD country, and monetary policy conditions are also tighter than elsewhere.

No further policy tightening is necessary, it concludes, but it warns that rates will have to stay high for some time. Written before last month's interest rate rise and the announcement of faster government spending growth in the next three years, it predicts that growth will drop sharply to below 2 per cent this year and next.

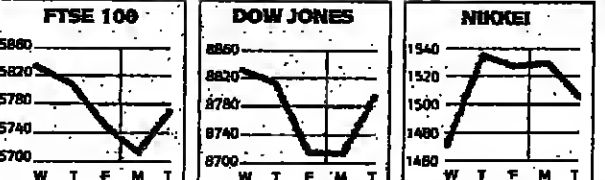
However, it adds: "Currently it is very difficult to judge the strength of underlying inflationary pressures and how quickly the economy will eventually slow." It predicts a pickup in inflation alongside the slowdown in growth due to weaker exports.  
Yesterday's official figures confirmed that the strong pound is harming exports.

DeAnne Julius, the Bank of England expert who voted for a rate cut in May, yesterday repeated her view that recent figures did not point to the need for higher rates.  
But most City analysts, taken by surprise by the Bank's decision to increase the cost of borrowing earlier this month, now expect another rate rise next month.

Recent figures for earnings, retail prices and retail sales have all added to the fear that the Bank will feel forced to move because of inflationary pressures, even though the economy is now slowing.  
The OECD report warns that a slowdown will have knock-on consequences. Rising unemployment could lead to a "ballooning" cost for the Government's welfare-to-work programme.

Ensuring a smooth landing is crucial to the success of these measures, it warns.

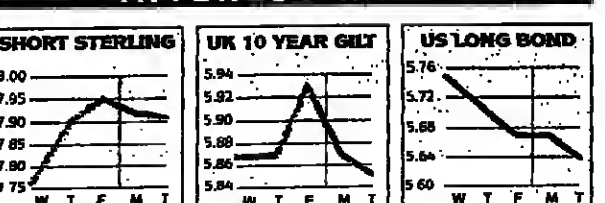
STOCK MARKETS



INDICES

| Index          | Close    | Change  | 52 wk high | 52 wk low | Yield (%) |
|----------------|----------|---------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| FTSE 100       | 5772.00  | +98.60  | 6150.50    | 4382.80   | 3.97      |
| FTSE 250       | 5510.40  | -51.50  | 5970.90    | 4984.20   | 3.19      |
| FTSE 350       | 2788.80  | +18.50  | 2940.10    | 2141.80   | 3.89      |
| FTSE All Share | 2723.39  | +14.65  | 2872.04    | 2106.59   | 3.78      |
| FTSE SmallCap  | 2624.90  | -36.60  | 2793.80    | 2182.10   | 3.12      |
| FTSE Fledgling | 1439.10  | -17.30  | 1517.10    | 1225.20   | 3.17      |
| FTSE AIM       | 1088.30  | -12.40  | 1146.90    | 969.90    | 1.14      |
| FTSE EBLCC 100 | 1020.87  | +14.90  | 1088.00    | 869.90    | 1.28      |
| Nikkei         | 8799.31  | +88.68  | 9261.91    | 6971.32   | 1.62      |
| Dow Jones      | 15054.60 | +254.49 | 15660.79   | 14488.21  | 1.01      |
| Hang Seng      | 8219.67  | +15.46  | 16820.31   | 7351.68   | 4.98      |
| Dax            | 5178.71  | +63.96  | 5787.70    | 3487.24   | 2.83      |

INTEREST RATES



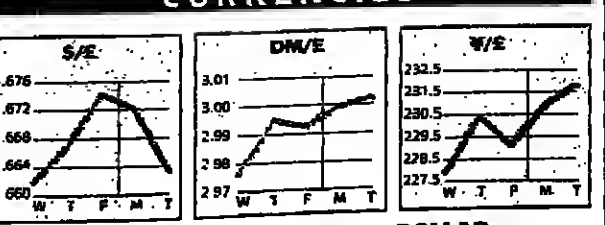
MONEY MARKET RATES

| Index   | 3 month | 6 month | 1 year | 10 year | 15 year | 30 year |
|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| UK      | 7.61    | 0.99    | 8.00   | 0.75    | 5.84    | -1.33   |
| US      | 5.69    | -0.09   | 5.81   | -0.28   | 5.45    | -0.97   |
| Japan   | 0.56    | -0.05   | 0.60   | -0.22   | 1.56    | -1.06   |
| Germany | 3.56    | 0.44    | 3.89   | 0.62    | 4.76    | -0.99   |

BOND YIELDS

| Index   | 3 month | 6 month | 1 year | 10 year | 15 year | 30 year |
|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| UK      | 7.61    | 0.99    | 8.00   | 0.75    | 5.84    | -1.33   |
| US      | 5.69    | -0.09   | 5.81   | -0.28   | 5.45    | -0.97   |
| Japan   | 0.56    | -0.05   | 0.60   | -0.22   | 1.56    | -1.06   |
| Germany | 3.56    | 0.44    | 3.89   | 0.62    | 4.76    | -0.99   |

CURRENCIES



POUND

| Index   | 3 month | 6 month | 1 year | 10 year | 15 year | 30 year |
|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Dollar  | 1.6633  | -0.87c  | 1.6663 | 0.6012  | +0.31p  | 0.5994  |
| D-Mark  | 3.0016  | +0.23pf | 2.8170 | 1.8045  | +1.08pf | 1.7210  |
| Yen     | 231.62  | +0.93   | 191.16 | 139.16  | +0.12p  | 114.78  |
| E index | 106.80  | 0.00    | 101.50 | 111.90  | 0.00    | 102.70  |

DOLLAR

| Index   | 3 month | 6 month | 1 year | 10 year | 15 year | 30 year |
|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Dollar  | 1.6633  | -0.87c  | 1.6663 | 0.6012  | +0.31p  | 0.5994  |
| D-Mark  | 3.0016  | +0.23pf | 2.8170 | 1.8045  | +1.08pf | 1.7210  |
| Yen     | 231.62  | +0.93   | 191.16 | 139.16  | +0.12p  | 114.78  |
| E index | 106.80  | 0.00    | 101.50 | 111.90  | 0.00    | 102.70  |

OTHER INDICATORS

| Index          | 3 month | 6 month | 1 year | 10 year | 15 year | 30 year |
|----------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Brent Oil (\$) | 12.02   | 0.78    | 17.63  | 114.80  | 3.00    | 111.45  |
| Gold (\$)      | 294.65  | -1.10   | 339.75 | 163.50  | 4.20    | 156.91  |
| Silver (\$)    | 5.36    | 0.05    | 4.72   | 7.50    | 6.50    | 6.50    |

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

| Country              | Rate   |
|----------------------|--------|
| Australia (\$)       | 2.6603 |
| Austria (schillings) | 20.48  |
| Belgium (francs)     | 60.21  |
| Canada (\$)          | 2.4029 |
| Cyprus (pounds)      | 0.8509 |
| Denmark (krone)      | 11.17  |
| Finland (markka)     | 8.9155 |
| France (francs)      | 9.7689 |
| Germany (marks)      | 2.9256 |
| Greece (drachma)     | 490.33 |
| Hong Kong (\$)       | 12.57  |
| Ireland (pounds)     | 1.1554 |
| India (rupees)       | 66.07  |
| Israel (shekels)     | 5.6661 |
| Italy (lira)         | 2886   |
| Japan (yen)          | 226.46 |
| Malaysia (ringgits)  | 6.2477 |
| Malta (lira)         | 0.6332 |

Rates for information purposes only  
Source: Thomas Cook

BNFL to buy US nuclear reprocessor in \$1bn deal

BRITISH NUCLEAR Fuels is buying a major part of CBS Westinghouse for around \$1bn, making the UK state-owned group the biggest nuclear reprocessor in the world.  
The move, which will be announced in London this morning, is being seen as a possible precursor to privatisation under a New Labour government which has overcome initial shyness about the sale of state assets.  
BNFL has beaten off strong competition to win control of the nuclear site of the US company CBS Westinghouse for a price believed to be around \$300m. But the British company will also take on a part of the Westinghouse liabilities, making the deal worth \$1bn in total.  
It will make BNFL one of the largest British employers in America. It has built up a significant subsidiary in the US

BY ANDREW MARSHALL  
AND TERRY MACALISTER  
group, and Framatome, the French nuclear giant.  
Though there are no regulatory implications in the US beyond the normal requirements of antitrust law, it will imply renewing agreements with the US Department of Defense and the Department of Energy, Westinghouse's largest customers, as well as other commercial nuclear operators.  
BNFL will, by taking on Westinghouse, become a key supplier to the US government. Westinghouse manages facilities for tritium production for the US weapons programmes, and handles spent nuclear fuel and dismantled nuclear weapons from the US navy.  
BNFL has built up a significant business in the US since it established its own operating subsidiary, BNFL Inc, in 1990. The Washington-based company now holds contracts worth

\$2bn, mainly to clean up and manage old nuclear weapons sites, like the one at Savannah River in South Carolina.  
BNFL's US success, built on expertise established in the UK, has helped swell the group's turnover in 1997 to £116m on sales of £12bn.  
Globalising BNFL and making it a key player in the US market, the transaction raises big questions about its continued ownership by the British government, corporate sources in America say. It may lead to changes in the structure of ownership, if not all-out privatisation.  
Westinghouse Electric Company has 24,000 employees around the world, a substantial increase in BNFL's already important overseas activities. It supplies new plant design, services, fuel and instrumentation and control technologies for 400 plants around the world.

Galen plans deal to triple its size

SHARES WERE suspended yesterday in Galen Holdings after the Northern Ireland-based company unveiled ambitious proposals to triple its size through a reverse takeover of the privately-owned Ferring Pharmaceuticals.  
The move underlines the growing ambitions of Galen's founder, Dr Allen McCloy, a former Glaxo salesman who established the Craigavon company in 1968 and still owns a 30 per cent stake.  
It also reflects pressures inside the pharmaceutical sector

BY TERRY MACALISTER  
which has been alive with merger and acquisition activity topped by the recently failed Glaxo Wellcome/SmithKline Beecham tie-up.  
Galen management said the Ferring merger would bring considerable synergies but stressed it was driven by prospects for growth, not cost-cutting.  
John King, chief executive of Galen, said: "This will bring Galen a strong marketing network in Europe. But there will

be equal opportunities in reverse for Ferring."  
Galen shares were suspended at 437.5p yesterday, up from last year's flotation price of 150p. The two companies said they hoped to conclude merger arrangements by the end of the year.  
Some shares in the proposed new venture will inevitably find themselves coming on to the market to ensure 25 per cent of the combined ownership is in public hands.  
Ferring, Paris-based but privately owned by the Poulsen

family in Holland, is by far the larger of the two companies with manufacturing plants in Scandinavia and Germany and 1,700 employees. Its estimated capitalisation is around £1bn.  
Galen employs barely 700 staff but has shown prodigious growth since it was established in late 1968. It is poised to unveil interim profits of around £7.3m tomorrow.  
Its best selling product is the pain-killing analgesic, Kapake but it has a range of treatments for gastro-intestinal and other ailments.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

LEADING SHARES enjoyed some sharp gains. Footsie ended near its day's high with a 59.6 points gain to 5,772. But it was a market of two halves as many second and third-line shares continued their ragged retreat from their recent peaks.  
Telephone shares led the blue-chip charge; BT, in busy trading, surged 37p to 741p (after 755p) as rumours continued to circulate that an alliance, perhaps even a full-scale merger, was being lined up with the American AT&T group.

NEW YORK

THE US stock market rose yesterday, with technology and energy shares leading the way.  
Microsoft was among the biggest gainers, following the computer giant's victory in a court case over the sale of its Internet browser.  
At midday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 1 per cent, or 86.19 points, to 8,797.32.  
Computer stocks were generally higher on the back of market hopes that the sector has finally bottomed out.

TOKYO

THE JAPANESE stock market fell yesterday, hit by a wave of scepticism over the Tokyo government's promises of a plan to kick-start the country's ailing economy.  
The Nikkei 225 index fell 254.49 points, or 1.66 per cent, to 15,054.60.  
The broader Topix index was down 1 per cent to 1175.42.  
Construction and real estate companies led the fall on the back of concerns over flagging domestic demand.

FRANCE

FRENCH STOCKS, led by chip maker ST Microelectronics and food retailer Promodes, firmed as investors focused on companies set to benefit from Europe's economic recovery.  
The benchmark CAC 40 index rose 46.40 points, or 1.2 per cent, to 4,065.04, partly erasing its 1.3 per cent fall over three sessions.  
Promodes, France's second-biggest food retailer, rose Ffr144 (4.6 per cent) to a record Ffr3,275 ahead of tomorrow's consumer spending figures.

RUSSIA

RUSSIAN STOCKS closed little changed as dealers remained on the sidelines amid worry that the government's economic stimulus package will not be enough to win a \$15bn bailout package from the International Monetary Fund. The benchmark Russian Trading System index rose to 172.61 from 172.37.  
The government package, presented to parliament yesterday by President Boris Yeltsin, includes spending cuts and a pledge to increase tax revenue.





The City puts £20bn into the UK economy each year, and rival European markets want to exploit the post-EMU action. But the City's future is not as bleak as some predict

Robert Harding

# Don't write off the City just yet

By LEA PATERSON

News Analysis: London can fend off attacks on its financial leadership

LONDON'S STOCK Exchange under pressure, London's futures and options exchange losing market share, the UK sitting out the first wave of EMU - are the days of the City of London numbered?

If all the recent rhetoric in the press is to be believed, dealers in the City might as well pack up and go home. First of all, we had apocalyptic predictions of the job losses that EMU would cause. Then there was the fuss about Liffe - London's futures and options exchange - which first managed to lose the bulk of trade in the German government bond future to the DTF, through a combination of managerial errors, a reluctance to adopt electronic trading, aggressive marketing by the DTF and political pressure from the Bundesbank.

Last week Matif, the French futures exchange, announced plans to challenge Liffe's monopoly in the gilt future. The DTF is also expected to join the fray soon. Given Liffe's spectacular failure to hold on to its bond market share, some in the City were gloomy about its chances of success in a three-way battle for the gilt future. Others, though, were less hasty to write off Liffe's chances.

Ed Condon, head of European listed derivatives at Credit Suisse First Boston, is among the optimists. He said: "Liffe has a 100 per cent share of the gilt. The other exchanges will need to do something completely different to persuade people to switch."

Matif and the DTF are hoping that their electronic trading system will make the difference. Liffe's new electronic system is not due to come on line until early next year. But Mr Condon believes that national factors are likely to come into play. He said: "In the case of the bond, the Bundesbank brought pressure to bear on the German

banks. The Bank of England will not be sympathetic to losing the gilt contract to Frankfurt, and could bring its influence to bear."

Liffe, unsurprisingly, is tight-lipped about its relationship with the Bank of England. One City source chuckled: "Liffe is incredibly sensitive about its relationship with the Bank. You'll never get them talking publicly about it."

Liffe is not the only City institution facing competitive pressure from abroad. On Monday evening, Nasdaq and the Deutsche Börse admitted they were in talks. Nasdaq said the two "had agreed to set up a

working group to explore common transatlantic business opportunities. It's part of the strategy of the Deutsche Börse and Nasdaq to develop co-operation and alliances with important stock exchanges."

Some were quick to construe this as a competitive assault on the London Stock Exchange (LSE). Others in the City, though, believe the position of the LSE is relatively safe, for the time being at least.

One City source, who declined to be named, explained that the position of the Stock Exchange was quite different to that of Liffe. In the case of Liffe, she said, rival

exchanges can unilaterally decide to, say, launch a gilt contract, and then persuade the traders to use their dealing system rather than Liffe's. The source said: "In practice, for Nasdaq and the Deutsche Börse to win substantial market share from the Stock Exchange, they would have to persuade UK-based companies they would do better listing on a foreign stock exchange rather than in London. I think national factors are just too strong."

Many traders believe that the most likely casualty of a Nasdaq/Deutsche Börse link would be Easdaq, the European version of Nasdaq, which focuses on European growth stocks. One said: "To be frank, Easdaq hasn't been as successful as we'd all hoped. If Nasdaq and Deutsche Börse join forces, or perhaps launch a pan-European product, it's Easdaq which has the most to lose."

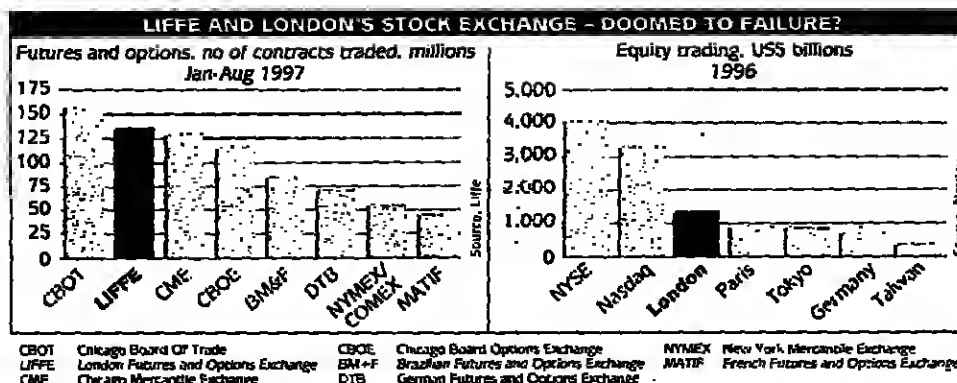
Others in the City say it is over-simplistic to view recent market developments as a European assault on the City of London, and point out that all exchanges are struggling to cope with intense competitive

pressures. Nasdaq is locked in a fierce battle for market share with the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). Deutsche Börse has other regional exchanges to contend with. All exchanges are having to come to terms with both the impact of technological change as well as the disappearance of most of the major European currencies after EMU.

One source close to the London exchanges said: "I can see a post-EMU world where exchanges specialise. You may have a series of national exchanges catering almost exclusively for national companies. You then could have one, or maybe two, pan-European or global exchanges catering for large multinationals."

Others City figures have talked about the possibility of increased co-operation between Liffe and the LSE, saying that once Liffe is fully electronic there will be greater synergies between the two exchanges.

The advent of the euro, and perhaps more importantly, the unrelenting pace of technological change, means that the City will never be the same again. But it is equally true to say that the future is not quite as bleak as some like to believe.



## Selfridges down ahead of flotation Carpetright sales collapse

SEARS, THE struggling retail group, is pressing ahead with its plans to demerge its Selfridges department store division, despite figures yesterday which showed a decline in current trading. Selfridges management admitted that the demerger was taking place at time of "maximum disruption" in the flagship store, which is still undergoing extensive refurbishment.

"There is no doubt that the timing is not perfect," said Vittorio Radice, Selfridges' chief executive. "But we are not raising any new money in the demerger and it is our major

BY NIGEL COPE  
Associate City Editor

shareholders that are pushing for it."

Selfridges figures showed that in the first 19 weeks of the year its sales were down by 4 per cent on the same period last year. It blamed high discounting in the end-of-season sales and the refurbishment of the store. Other factors include the strong pound and the Asian crisis which has affected tourist spending. "The Americans are still coming in, but Asian business has definitely been hit," Mr Radice said.

Pro-forma figures for the year to January showed a trading profit of £21m on sales of £293.6m. The company said trading at its Oxford Street flagship would continue to be affected by refurbishment work until January 1999.

His comments accompanied poor figures from Sears, which said it will continue with plans to demerge its Freemans mail order business. Freemans reported a slowdown in sales growth to 12 per cent in the first 19 weeks due to the strength of sterling and higher discounting. At Sears' clothing stores, which include Wallis and Miss Selfridges, sales were flat on last year, though margins were better.

The demerger of Selfridges will be put to shareholders at its annual meeting on 17 July, with Selfridges shares expected to start trading on 20 July. Before the demerger there will be a 1-for-10 share consolidation.

Tony Shiret, retail analyst at Credit Suisse First Boston, said Selfridges would be valued at around £400m on demerger, worth around 25p per share or 25p following the consolidation. The rump of Sears would be worth 30-35p. Sears shares closed 4.75p lower at 56.75p.

CARPETRIGHT Britain's largest carpet retailer, signalled further problems in the durable goods market yesterday when it reported lower-than-expected profits and warned of a difficult year ahead.

Lord Harris, Carpetright's chairman, said the carpet market was "the worst I've seen in my 40 years in the industry". Carpet sales collapsed after Christmas, he said, with the market down by more than 20 per cent.

Carpetright shares fell 13 per cent to 274.5p, their lowest level for four years. The poor figures dragged down shares in other

BY NIGEL COPE

durable goods retailers, with MFI, DFS and Courts all seeing sharp falls.

Analysts blamed the weak market on rising interest rates deterring consumers from buying higher-ticket items. Job insecurity, particularly in the North, is also putting people off committing themselves to longer-term credit, they said.

Others said Carpetright may be a victim of changing fashions in floor coverings as increasing numbers prefer striped wood floors to carpets. But this was dismissed by Lord Harris. "I

can tell you that is not true. The wood market is rising and we are going into it in a small way, but it is still a tiny proportion of the whole market."

He was speaking as Carpetright reported a fall in full year pre-tax profits from £22m to £28m last year.

The company was hit by a steep rise in its cost base as well as weaker sales, which were flat on a same-store basis over the year. The company has now scaled back its expansion plans and is aiming for a total of 350 stores instead of the previously planned 450.

### IN BRIEF

#### Kingfisher buys French outlet

KINGFISHER, the retail group which owns B&Q and Woolworths, yesterday took control of French furniture and electrical retailer BUT by buying an additional 36 per cent from the founding Venturini family for £10.5m. It now controls 61 per cent.

#### Gene purchase

CAMBRIDGE Antibody Technology, the gene screening group, yesterday bought Aptem Inc, a US technology company, for up to £11m in shares.

#### Green fund

NPI ASSET Management yesterday launched the Global Care Asia Pacific Fund, the first fund to invest only in South-east Asian companies which meet strict environmental and social criteria.

#### Payment times

BARBARA ROCHE, the minister for small firms, announced that Companies House would be contacting companies that are not disclosing in their accounts the average time they take to pay suppliers. The move follows research by Duns & Bradstreet showing that more than half the UK's top firms may be breaking the law by not complying with government regulations.

#### Less of leisure

FIRST LEISURE shares plunged 35.5p to 373.5p yesterday after the leisure group warned that consumer demand had fallen in the first few weeks of its second half. In the first half pre-tax profits before asset sales grew 10 per cent to £18.3m on sales of £114.8m, up 29 per cent.

#### Game sales up

SALES AT video game seller Electronics Boutique rose an annualised 31 per cent in the first 20 weeks of the year, with like-for-like sales up 11 per cent.

#### Research stake

FIMALAC Communications, part of French group Centenaire Blazzy, yesterday put its 10 per cent stake in market research group Taylor Nelson Sofres up for sale. The stake is worth £47.5m.

#### Hartstone sells

HARTSTONE, the leather goods and hosiery maker, yesterday sold its Spanish hosiery division Marie Claire to venture capital group Dinamia for £25.2m.

#### Salomon grows

SALOMON SMITH Barney, the US investment bank, yesterday bought the Australian funds management operations of rival J.P. Morgan.

#### Japan debt risk

FTICBICA, the credit rating agency, said that the downturn in the Japanese economy and the weakening of the yen could put the country's sovereign AAA debt rating at risk.

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## Another poor result for Grade

MICHAEL GRADE, the cigar-chomping former Channel 4 boss who now chairs First Leisure, was slightly depressed yesterday, and not just because of his company's indifferent results: "Glen Hoddle picked the wrong team in the first place," was Mr Grade's verdict on England's irritatingly familiar 2-1 cock-up against the Romanians.

Or there again, it could be sour grapes on Mr Grade's part because the World Cup has been luring punters away from his nightclubs, such as the Branigan's music bars.

Perhaps Mr Hoddle can make amends when he returns home, by buying the Blackpool Tower, which First Leisure recently put on the market.

THEN AGAIN, perhaps City solicitors Paisner & Co are to blame for England's defeat. The firm held a mini world cup of their own last Friday. The two finalists in the Paisner & Co Tournament, held in the shadow of Tower Bridge, were the Brockbank group, representing Bermuda, and Equitas, representing England.

The firm issued a press release this week detailing the re-

### PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



sults, which concluded: "Whilst there is of course no prospect of Bermuda winning the World Cup in France, the tournament may though be a good omen for England, like Equitas, reaching the final."

Aaargh. Talk about tempting fate. Perhaps there was a more reliable omen thrown up by the insurance cup. Though Equitas (England) reached the final, it still lost to Brockbank (Bermuda) 2-0.

management did themselves no favours, however, by mentioning they had sponsored a stadium in Bucharest to help Romanian fans watch and celebrate their national team's victory over England.

Serves them right that they had to drink Coke rather than anything stronger. (This is known as "sour grapes").

GRAHAM HADLEY has just returned to the City after four years in Russia helping the post-Communist authorities to set up a Russian stock exchange.

Mr Hadley, a stockbroker now in his early fifties, went out to Moscow under the auspices of the Overseas Development Administration, a British organisation which sponsors the UK Know How Fund. This fund sends in expertise to individual situations worldwide.

The Russian initiative was prompted by the warm relationship between Margaret Thatcher and Mikhail Gorbachev.

Graham tells me he soon found himself working in Perm, an industrial city 700 miles east of Moscow with a 1.2 million population. Perm produced ballistic missiles during

the Cold War, and as such was a "closed city" until 1991, he says.

Graham is extremely enthusiastic about the long-term prospects for the Russian market - and for the sheer history of the place.

He says: "It's amazing in the rural areas, just like going back 50-60 years. You expect Rasputin to leap out and hit you on the nose."

"The Kremlin stretches for over 70 acres and contains three separate Orthodox cathedrals - and the stockbroking is really going places."

"The US makes a big deal out of having five time zones. Russia has 11," he says.

Under Boris Yeltsin, the privatisation process has produced 50,000 companies "overnight", so the potential for brokers is sky-high.

"The Moscow stock market has adopted a quasi-Nasdaq system, with companies worth about £400m so far. For those investors who like volatility, Moscow is the place to be."

Before going to Russia, Graham worked for many years in the City which he joined in 1971 straight from Edinburgh University. He had stints in the old Wood Mackenzie,

Laing & Cruickshank and Savory Milne, for instance.

Graham is now about to join the research arm of European Stockbrokers, which is itself the broking arm of Cheviot Capital, a small British independent investment house.

As for the Russian market, Graham admits it is not for widows and orphans. "It will never be dull," he says.

"The infrastructure is not really in place yet. In October 1917 someone turned the lights out - it's only just getting back there, but they're very keen to catch up," he says.

So what would it be like for a young City professional to go out there, I ask? He advises: "Be very cautious - there are many pitfalls. You'd have to rely on your instincts."

He concludes with a sombre warning: "It's shattering how the Americans have come to dominate Moscow - every restaurant has its menu in dollars. There are a lot of German and American products."

"In the UK we've been slow and reticent to get involved, which I think is a mistake. I think over the next 10 years Russia will prove a great investment."



# Sell-off is the way forward for BNFL

FEW PEOPLE thought it possible to privatise British Energy when the idea of selling off the country's nuclear generating capacity was first floated, and yet it was done and the company has proved a fabulous investment. So, in theory, there's no reason the Government shouldn't do the same with British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL), which produces and reprocesses the raw material for nuclear power.

Certainly that was the idea under the previous administration. Despite their new found acceptance of many of the central theologies of the Thatcher years, quite a few of the new lot still have a bit of a problem with the idea of privatisation, particularly when it comes to the sort of business BNFL is in.

This is silly. What BNFL does is highly sensitive and there's no doubt that it is a dirty business many ethical investors won't want to touch. Today's acquisition of Westinghouse's nuclear reprocessing plants and related businesses in the US, nonetheless demonstrates both that it is possible to have private ownership of such assets and that this has become a truly global business perhaps best managed by a global enterprise.



## OUTLOOK

There is every reason why BNFL should be doing this deal - for a start, it gains access to a US customer base to add to its existing UK and Japanese ones - but there is no reason why the British taxpayer should be helping to fund such an expansion. As a state owned industry, BNFL forms part of the public finances and this purchase will presumably therefore have some, if only a minor, impact on them.

Politically the Labour Government might still find it difficult to sell the idea of a stock-market flotation of BNFL to its backbenchers. The idea of selling off the Post Office is already causing a bumber of a

row between the Chancellor and the Prime Minister. But full privatisation must be the end game, even if it takes a few years yet to arrive.

## One runner in digital radio race

COMMERCIAL RADIO has always been the poor relation of commercial TV and no more so than in the race to turn digital. Not only are the numbers much smaller than with digital TV, but there's a real fear that digital radio isn't a commercial proposition at all.

Part of the reason for this is the very high cost of digital receivers, which at present can be as much as £1,000 per set. While this might be passed off as a hidden extra in the cost of top of the line luxury cars, few ordinary radio purchasers are going to think the price worth the better quality sound. This is especially the case if digital fails to offer much in the way of enhanced service over what is already on offer with analogue radio.

All the same, it was perhaps somewhat disappointing to find that when the deadline came yesterday for submitting final proposals to the Radio Authority for the licence for

digital radio, there was just one bidder, the only rival having dropped by the wayside some while back. Furthermore, the bidder's reasons for submitting a proposal at all seem to be mostly defensive. The bidder is a consortium of GWR, which owns Classic FM, Talk Radio and the cable operator NTL.

The two national radio stations involved get automatic renewal of their licences when they come up for review in the year 2000 if they bankroll the advance into digital, so they have an obvious incentive to fund the proposal regardless of whether they think it commercially viable. To be fair on the bidder, this is not an entirely spurious proposal. The consortium has come up with some genuine innovations to support its bid, including a dedicated sports channel. Even so, the suspicion must be that it has done the bare minimum to ensure it passes the Radio Authority's various quality of service thresholds.

The Government is keen to push ahead with the development of digital radio as quickly as possible. Britain leads the world in developing digital TV and ministers want us to do the same in radio. Furthermore, the BBC is independently already

making the necessary investment regardless of the fact that there are so few sets out there that can receive the service. To boot, the timing of the licence renewal for Classic FM has the effect of tying the authorities into an early decision on digital radio.

Nonetheless, the Radio Authority might give serious consideration to turning this bid down so as to allow for the development of credible alternative proposals. A one-contestant race is no good to anyone. By awarding the licence now before developments in technology allow for steep reductions in the costs of digital sets and the full commercial potential of digital radio becomes apparent, the Radio Authority will be guaranteeing that the new platform is dominated by present national radio incumbents, rather than the way the BBC has with digital TV. This cannot be the best way forward for a service multiple possibilities.

## Time pundits took a holiday

THERE HAS been no excuse for not taking a winter sun holiday or pleasant skiing trip this year. The

Thai baht is at a ridiculously low level against the pound, and the strength of the pound against the French franc has made even the Alps look affordable. Many of us still have money from the building society windfalls stashed away, and the lucky City few banked bumper bonuses this year. It should therefore be no surprise that we splashed out nearly £5bn on foreign trips in the first three months of this year. Judging by the number of Brits doing their own Tour de France for the World Cup this month, it will be even higher in the second quarter.

The interesting question is whether this reflects strength or weakness in the economy. It certainly suggests that British consumers feel happier and wealthier even if that is not justified by the reality. Separate figures yesterday showed that consumer spending at home was still growing nearly 5 per cent in year-on-year terms.

Yet the shock balance of payments figures have given pessimists about growth prospects extra ammunition. Apart from our rocketing spending on travel abroad, investment income from the Far East was down and so were exports of goods.

Two sets of evidence, two sets of pundits. One lot is full of gloomy warnings about recession, the others predicting inflation pressures will force the Bank of England to raise interest rates again. After all, the target measure of inflation could soon hit the 3.5 per cent barrier that will force Eddie George to write an open letter of explanation to the Chancellor.

The truth is that the economy has reached a stage familiar in every business cycle where growth slows, often quite sharply, while inflation carries on rising. There are lags in the inflation process, which even the Bank of England seems to have forgotten, meaning that the peak rate of inflation is reached at least one year, and more likely two, after the peak rate of growth. This is nothing as dramatic as stagflation, simply the normal cyclical pattern.

That was the main thrust of yesterday's annual report from the OECD. The UK will see much slower growth this year and next, and persistent inflation - and there is not much the Bank of England can do about it. It sounds like time for both the MPC and the City pundits to make the situation worse and take a foreign holiday, far away from this dismal June.

## Laird shares drop 20% as profits slump

SHARES IN Laird, the engineering group, fell by more than 20 per cent after the company said its first half profits would be over 40 per cent lower than last year.

Laird said cost pressures in its sealing systems business meant that pre-tax profits for the six months to June would be close to £20m, down from £34.7m in the same period last year.

At last month's annual general meeting, Laird said profits in the first four months of the year were running at a lower level than in 1997. Yesterday, the company said that the position

in its sealing systems division had deteriorated.

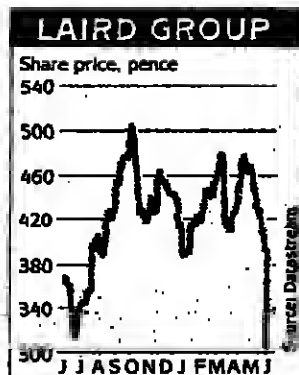
"This will result in a loss in these activities for the first half of 1998," the company said. The company added that its other activities, which in 1997 accounted for over 80 per cent of total profits, "are expected to produce results in the first half similar to those of the first half in 1997".

The company's shares fell 91.5p to 297p following the profit warning, but they recouped some of their losses later in the day to close at 306.5p. The shares had started the day at 388.5p.

Ian Arnott, Laird's chief executive, said the main problem was that initial costs of operating the new car body seal plant in the US had been higher than expected.

Mr Arnott said: "We're sending out more experienced technicians from our plants in Europe to assist the production management in the States. The problem will be solved. Once we get the plant sorted out, it will enhance the value of our businesses overall." He added: "We are monitoring the situation on a daily basis."

In addition, the company said start-up costs on new



plants in France and Spain amounted to approximately £2m during the period.

Laird also identified some difficulties in Germany, where planned cost reductions have yet to be achieved and where margins had been forced down by strong competition. The company said that senior management changes had been made in Germany.

## FSA may not review 'rebate only' pensions misselling

THE Financial Services Authority has hinted it may back away from a full-scale review of all of the remaining 1.5 million cases of pension misselling after lobbying by insurance companies.

The City regulator yesterday said it was putting off a decision on part of the second phase of the pensions review, which is designed to clear up the £15bn misselling scandal.

Phase two of the review is designed to look at 1.5 million "non-priority" cases of younger people who may have been missold a pension. The first phase, which encompassed

By ANDREW VERITY

600,000 people who had retired or were about to retire, is due to end this year. The FSA now appears to be backing away from demanding that life insurers fully review a whole tranche of "rebate only" personal pensions sold to young people.

Siric Muir, a pensions expert with Axa Sun Life, said: "What the industry's arguing is that we are talking about a very, very small number of people with rebate-only pensions who fall into the category where they may have been

missold. We can get carried away with this, trying to be whiter than white."

The rebate-only pensions were sold to people who wanted a personal pension rather than being in Serps, the state-run second pension. Rather than paying national insurance for Serps, over 3 million customers have opted to have a national insurance rebate paid into a personal pension.

But life insurers complained that only a tiny fraction of these cases were connected to the real misselling problem of taking a personal pension instead of an employer's scheme.

The misselling debacle is becoming increasingly costly to financial services companies. Hogg Robinson, one of the country's biggest financial advisers, yesterday revealed it had set aside £10m to compensate victims of misselling. This is believed to have doubled since Phase Two of the review was announced.

Lincoln Assurance was yesterday fined £70,000 because of failures connected to the pensions review, its second regulatory fine in just over a year. In April 1997 the company was fined £20,000 over problems with its administration of PEPs.

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# Blue chips leave the rest behind

IT WAS a stock market of two halves - the haves and have-nots. As the blue chip Footsie index soared a 59.6 points gain to 5,772 the second and third-liners remained in dismal and ragged retreat.

Telephone groups led the Footsie charge. BT was up 37p (after 51p) to a 741p closing peak as stories continued to circulate of a deal, perhaps a full merger, with the US group AT&T.

Orange, ringing a 54p gain to 605p following an investment presentation, and Vodafone, merely joining in the telephonic fun with a 25p up-lift to 780p, also helped to dial Footsie higher.

But down among the under-card it was a very different story. The mid cap index fell a resounding 51.5 to 5,510.4. It has fallen for 10 consecutive trading days, sliding 456.2. The small cap index, off 36.6 to 2,624.8, has suffered a similar indignity.

The second and third-liners have had a strong run in recent months. After trailing miserably behind their Footsie peers, they staged a dramatic revival as fund managers and small investors decided blue chips had moved ahead of the game and the best value lurked on the under-card.

There was an undoubted buying stampede which, because of the lack of liquidity of many shares, pushed prices sharply higher. Now as some of the buyers feel it is time to take their profits they are finding it difficult to exit such tightly held shares at realistic prices.

The dramatic retreat has led to some desperate sellers appearing on the scene, often prepared to accept what would be regarded as absurd prices.

Most of the mid cap shares are still traded under the transparent market-making system with only a handful graduating to the order book.

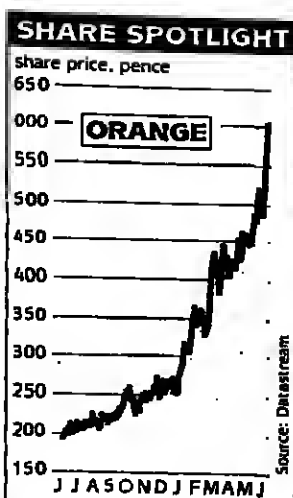
Said one dealer: "We are witnessing a very uncomfortable market; it's been a rare awakening for some of the younger fund managers."

Rumours of BT's proposed AT&T deal have been intriguing the market for nearly a week. The American group would represent a splendid

## MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN



consolation prize for BT following the loss of its planned MCI deal. Orange, where SBC Warburg has set an 800p target, was spurred by a new tariff package and network guarantee proposals.

Others to support the Footsie push were Halifax, recovering much of Monday's fall, and Schroders, where

DEAN CORPORATION, the building and property services group created by Stephen Dean, is creeping up on Superframe; it has picked up another 500,000 shares, lifting its stake to 29.45 per cent, just below the level which triggers a bid. It is thought Mr Dean hopes to galvanise the acrylic shop-fitting maker, possibly joining the board. But there is also the possibility he will roll out a full bid. Superframe, which came to market at 50p three years ago, held at 22p.

MEARS, the building maintenance company, firmed 0.5p to 12.25p. Takeover talk is in the air. There are suggestions one would be bidder has decided to walk away. Placed at 10p in October, 1996, the shares hit a 13.5p high recently.

LPA, little changed at 73.5p, should lift profits from £557,000 to £900,000 this year and then hit £1.15m, says stockbroker Greig Middleton.

SEAQ VOLUME 903.3m; SEAQ TRADES: 63,224

GILT INDEX: n/a

## takeover hopes have an eternal quality

BAT Industries, up 26p to 582p, was pushed higher on the back of a US court victory and Softway, the stores chain, improved 12.5p to 383.5p as HSBC was thought to have adopted a more positive stance to what has become the lame duck of the big four retailers.

Overseas earners remained in the doldrums, hit by the continuing strength of sterling. RioTinto fell 26.5p to 680p; BTR 5p to 170.25p and Wolsley 17.5p to 355p.

Engineer Laird produced the day's main profit warning - and lost 82p to 306.5p for its trouble. It said interim profits would be nearer £20m than last time's £34.7m.

Another warning emerged from finance group London Forfaiting. The market slashed profit forecasts after the company dogged in recent weeks by concerns over its extensive Asian exposure, warned profits would be "substantially" below expectations.

With forecasts now in the £30m area against £47m, the shares plunged 71p to 283.5p. They were 481.5p a few months ago.

First Leisure declined 36p to 379.5p following disappointing profits, and another negative trading statement from Sears led the shares 4.75p down at 56.75p. Figures from Jarvis hit the shares 42.5p to 704p.

The rug was pulled from Carpetright, off 41.5p to

274.5p, by even poorer than expected results, and MFI, reporting next week, apprehensively dropped 4.5p to 69.5p.

Care UK, providing health care facilities, firmed 17p to 240.5p after announcing a bid approach and Gales, a drugs group which came to market last year, was suspended at 437.5p after disclosing it was in talks which could lead to a reverse takeover.

Oil was firm on the feeling that the next Opec meeting, starting in Vienna today, could attempt another round of production cuts, perhaps up to 1 million barrels a day.

But Opec is not the power it used to be and it has experienced difficult enforcing cuts as member states adopted their own line. Still British Petroleum gained 17.5p to 867.5p and Shell 5p to 414p.

Enterprise Oil, up 10p to 560p, was additionally buoyed by favourable analyst comment, with Lehman Brothers suggesting a 630p target price.

Taylor Nelson, the research group, fell 6p to 111p. Centenary Blancy plans to sell its 10.62 per cent stake through Cazenove. Its shareholding stemmed from its control of the Sofres Group, acquired by IN in November.

Hambro Countrywide, the estate agent, gave up 4.5p to 126.5p, a \$3.5 million block went through at 125p as the demerger from the old Hambro was effected. It hit the shares came from Guardian Asset Management, which had a significant stake in the estate agent even before the demerger. Under the terms of the split, shareholders received 0.9 of a Countrywide share for every one Hambros share.

Psi-on's recent strength appeared to come from a possible move into "the field of wireless information devices". Apparently a joint venture, with an unidentified partner, is being considered. Shares of the band-held computer group ended unchanged at 281.5p.

Tadpole Technology firmed 1.5p to 16.25p after cutting interim losses from £2.6m to £994,000 but Iomega, the hard-pressed wireless telephone group, lost 6p to 28p.

# Carpetright floored by higher interest rates

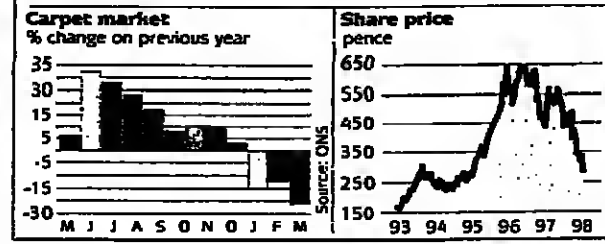
## INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

## Hogg Robinson shaken up

### CARPETRIGHT: AT A GLANCE

| Trading record          | 1994  | 1995  | 1996  | 1997  | 1998  |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Turnover (£m)           | 110.0 | 141.0 | 185.0 | 233.8 | 209.3 |
| Pre-tax profits (£m)    | 14.0  | 19.7  | 25.2  | 32.1  | 29.1  |
| Earnings per share (p)  | 12.0  | 16.8  | 22.3  | 28.5  | 26.0  |
| Dividends per share (p) | 7.0   | 10.5  | 4.5   | 19.0  | 22.0  |



NEW CHAIRMAN Neville Bain has taken Hogg Robinson, the travel and financial services group, by the scruff of the neck and shaken some life into it by a mixture of disposals and management focus.

The pensions mis-selling scandal still hangs over it but a hefty £10m provision to next year's accounts should finally confine that episode to the history books. The size of the provision sent shares plunging 29.5p to 288.5p yesterday but the fall looks overdue. Management displayed its optimism about the future by unveiling a final dividend of 6.99p, making a total for the year of 11.0p, up 12.2 per cent.

The payout - which follows last year's share buyback - came after total group pre-tax and pre-excepted profits rose from £28.1m last time to £30.1m for the 12 months to March 31.

Last year's clear-out involved the sale of Hogg Robinson's transport division but the group also bought two business travel operations. It has started the new year in the same way, taking a 51 per cent stake in Canada's Hider Travel.

Currency factors cost the company £1.8m last year as it is losing some business as a result of the Asian crisis. But analysts expect 1998 profits of £22m, putting the company on a future earnings multiple of 11. After yesterday's fall, buy.

and yesterday the shares dropped another 30.5p to 716p.

This despite impressive full-year figures which showed pre-tax profits more than doubling to £36.7m on turnover up 36 per cent to £356m. Even the news that Jarvis is the preferred bidder on a range of contracts worth a combined £300m failed to boost the shares.

This is partly just profit-taking. After all, Jarvis shares have risen more than 30-fold since the beginning of 1996. But the concerns run deeper. Specifically, shareholders worry that Jarvis may have done a deal too far in buying Streamline, the quoted road services business, for £185m in May.

Paris Mooney, Jarvis's chief executive, argues that it makes

sense to branch out into roads and airports. But sceptics point out that in Jarvis is dealing with a private-sector customer while in roads it depends on the government. The government's dislike of road travel hardly bodes well.

Moreover, Jarvis will not be able to repeat the trick it managed last year with Fastline and Relayfast, the track renewal companies, in buying underperforming assets and turning them around. Instead, Jarvis paid a full price for a company which was already very profitable.

Brokers expect profits of £57m in the coming year, putting the shares on a forward p/e ratio of 23. Given the uncertainty, the shares are still overvalued.

## A deal too far for Jarvis?

HAVE WE seen the best of Jarvis? The fast-growing transport infrastructure and facilities management group has been one of the market's favourite stocks in recent years. But in the past few weeks investors have slammed on the brakes,

| Company                        | Turnover (£)      | Pre-tax (£)     | EPS             | Dividend      | Pay day  | Ex-Dividend |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|----------|-------------|
| Carpetright (F)                | 209.34m (233.8m)  | 29.14m (32.18m) | 26.0p (28.5p)   | 22.0p (19.0p) | 24.08.98 | 24.08.98    |
| Chelston Group (F)             | 115.85m (125.58m) | 10.0m (11.52m)  | 3.24p (3.14p)   | 1.0p (0.65p)  | 21.08.98 | 21.08.98    |
| First Leisure (F)              | 114.8m (88.6m)    | 8.47p (7.24p)   | 2.85p (2.54p)   | 30.10.98      | 30.10.98 | 30.10.98    |
| First People (F)               | 13.14m (13.72m)   | -3.88m (2.53m)  | -3.81p (2.44p)  | -             | -        | -           |
| Garfield Whalley (F)           | 46.18m (20.07m)   | 1.1m (1.53m)    | 9.01p (12.44p)  | 2.0p (-)      | 08.07.98 | 28.06.98    |
| Halen (F)                      | 213.77m (200.14m) | 36.62m (37.07m) | 6.87p (7.01p)   | 1.88p (2.77p) | 17.08.98 | 13.07.98    |
| Henderson (F)                  | 99.57m (61.61m)   | 5.11m (6.53m)   | 22.22p (18.57p) | 7.5p (5.00p)  | 19.08.98 | 19.08.98    |
| Hogg Robinson (F)              | 185.0m (154m)     | 1.43m (2.48m)   | 1.11p (1.87p)   | 11.0p (8.00p) | 24.08.98 | 24.08.98    |
| Jarvis (F)                     | 2.64m (2.44m)     | 0.103m (0.24m)  | 0.94p (1.30p)   | -             | -        | -           |
| Jarvis (F)                     | 355.16m (261.65m) | 36.73m (15.15m) | 26.7p (15.6p)   | 4.5p (-)      | 24.08.98 | 24.08.98    |
| Jarvis (F)                     | 10.21m (7.21m)    | 0.85m (0.43m)   | 20.44p (12.72p) | 1.0p (-)      | 14.08.98 | 29.06.98    |
| Kim Capital (F)                | -                 | 15.54p (8.81p)  | 13.58p (2.8p)   | 14.08.98      | 29.06.98 | 29.06.98    |
| London Merchant Securities (F) | -                 | 86.41m (32.84m) | 33.39p (11.19p) | 15.8p (5.3p)  | 28.06.98 | 28.06.98    |
| Magnetic Wires (F)             | 60.46m (49.84m)   | 3.24m (1.98m)   | 17.02p (11.77p) | 3.4p (5.0p)   | 07.08.98 | 29.06.98    |
| Navan Resources (F)            | 15.44m (26.77m)   | -15.52m (0.99m) | -23.52p (0.97p) | -             | -        | -           |
| Shall Group (F)                | 9.72m (11.17m)    | -0.58m (-0.28m) | -1.8p (1.4p)    | 2.37p (-)     | 10.08.98 | 29.06.98    |
| Tadpole Technology (F)         | 3.82m (2.70m)     | 0.88m (2.48m)   | 1.1p (1.4p)     | -             | -        | -           |
| TNT (F)                        | 126.95m (85.82m)  | 24.07m (19.05m) | 4.84p (4.22p)   | 1.25p (1.75p) | 01.10.98 | 28.06.98    |
| Thames Valley (F)              | 64.88m (50.84m)   | 6.812m (4.55m)  | 11.3p (8.0p)    | 3.3p (2.8p)   | 28.06.98 | 28.06.98    |
| Wagon International (F)        | 326.3m (367.2m)   | 20.3m (-4.5m)   | 25.1p (44.1p)   | 12.0p (12.0p) | 02.10.98 | 01.09.98    |
| Waters & Phillips (F)          | 322.62m (237.22m) | 7.50m (7.14m)   | 12.7p (11.3p)   | 6.5p (6.7p)   | 31.07.98 | 29.06.98    |
| Wilsons (F)                    | 47.02m (53.94m)   | 0.58m (5.02m)   | 7.50p (5.55p)   | 1.0p (0.85p)  | 02.10.98 | 24.08.98    |

(F) = Final (I) = Interim (M) = New Month 1 EPS is pre-excepted. \*Dividend to be paid as a FID \*\*5p for 15 cents to March 31

## LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES

| Contract         | Settlement | High    | Low     | Est. floor volume | Open Interest |
|------------------|------------|---------|---------|-------------------|---------------|
| Long Gilt        | Sep-98     | 108.73  | 108.86  | 108.52            | 2937000       |
| 5 Yr Gilt        | Jun-98     | 101.27  | 101.27  | 40.80             | 129572.00     |
| German Bund      | Sep-98     | 108.37  | 108.42  | 107.27            | 4350.00       |
| Italian Bond     | Sep-98     | 120.39  | 120.46  | 120.22            | 15616.00      |
| Japan Govt Bd    | Sep-98     | 133.40  | 133.44  | 133.34            | 1356.00       |
| 3 Mth Sterling   | Dec-98     | 92.08   | 92.10   | 92.08             | 12607.00      |
| 3 Mth Eurodollar | Dec-98     | 92.14   | 92.15   | 92.12             | 12264.00      |
| 3 Mth Eurodollar | Dec-98     | 96.39   | 96.39   | 96.39             | 1050.00       |
| 3 Mth Eurodollar | Dec-98     | 96.33   | 96.33   | 96.32             | 3460.00       |
| 3 Mth Eurodollar | Dec-98     | 95.58   | 95.60   | 95.58             | 19337.00      |
| 3 Mth Eurodollar | Dec-98     | 95.95   | 95.96   | 95.93             | 8644.00       |
| 3 Mth Eurodollar | Dec-98     | 99.33   | 99.33   | 99.33             | 1065.00       |
| 3 Mth Eurodollar | Dec-98     | 98.00   | 98.03   | 97.98             | 17065.00      |
| 3 Mth Eurodollar | Dec-98     | 97.83   | 97.86   | 97.80             | 5239.00       |
| 3 Mth Euro       | Dec-98     | 95.76   | 95.76   | 95.76             | 19038.00      |
| FTSE 100         | Sep-98     | 5842.00 | 5853.00 | 5763.00           | 19038.00      |

## LIFFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION

| Series | Call Imp Vol | Put Imp Vol | Call Put | Call Put | Call Put |
|--------|--------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 5700   | 188.23       | 91.22       | 210      | 186      | 116      |
| 5750   | 159.23       | 111.22      | 289      | 205      | 237      |
| 5800   | 128.22       | 132.22      | 219      | 205      | 237      |
| 5850   | 101.21       | 157.21      | 189      | 227      | 323      |

## ENERGY AT EUROPE

| Contract                | Settlement | High  | Low   | Est. floor volume | Open Interest |
|-------------------------|------------|-------|-------|-------------------|---------------|
| Brent Crude (\$/barrel) | Sep-98     | 12.75 | 12.75 | 12.75             | 12.75         |
| WTI Crude (\$/barrel)   | Sep-98     | 12.75 | 12.75 | 12.75             | 12.75         |
| WTI Crude (\$/barrel)   | Sep-98     | 12.75 | 12.75 | 12.75             | 12.75         |
| WTI Crude (\$/barrel)   | Sep-98     | 12.75 | 12.75 | 12.75             | 12.75         |

## GOLDMAN SACHS COMMODITY INDICES

| Index                 | Settlement | High  | Low   | Est. floor volume | Open Interest |
|-----------------------|------------|-------|-------|-------------------|---------------|
| WTI Crude (\$/barrel) | Sep-98     | 12.75 | 12.75 | 12.75             | 12.75         |
| WTI Crude (\$/barrel) | Sep-98     | 12.75 | 12.75 | 12.75             | 12.75         |
| WTI Crude (\$/barrel) | Sep-98     | 12.75 | 12.75 | 12.75             | 12.75         |
| WTI Crude (\$/barrel) | Sep-98     | 12.75 | 12.75 | 12.75             | 12.75         |

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

| Country     | Settlement | High   | Low    | Est. floor volume | Open Interest |
|-------------|------------|--------|--------|-------------------|---------------|
| UK          | 1.0000     | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.0000            | 1.0000        |
| Australia   | 2.7368     | 2.7368 | 2.7368 | 2.7368            | 2.7368        |
| Canada      | 0.7112     | 0.7112 | 0.7112 | 0.7112            | 0.7112        |
| Denmark     | 6.1833     | 6.1833 | 6.1833 | 6.1833            | 6.1833        |
| France      | 2.4443     | 2.4443 | 2.4443 | 2.4443            | 2.4443        |
| Germany     | 1.1424     | 1.1424 | 1.1424 | 1.1424            | 1.1424        |
| Italy       | 1.3668     | 1.3668 | 1.3668 | 1.3668            | 1.3668        |
| Japan       | 110.00     | 110.00 | 110.00 | 110.00            | 110.00        |
| Netherlands | 2.3365     | 2.3365 | 2.3365 | 2.3365            | 2.3365        |
| New Zealand | 3.7652     | 3.7652 | 3.7652 | 3.7652            | 3.7652        |
| Portugal    | 206.48     | 206.48 | 206.48 | 206.48            | 206.48        |
| Spain       | 166.36     | 166.36 | 166.36 | 166.36            | 166.36        |
| Sweden      | 4.7461     | 4.7461 | 4.7461 | 4.7461            | 4.7461        |
| Switzerland | 1.4865     | 1.4865 | 1.4865 | 1.4865            | 1.4865        |
| US          | 1.6633     | 1.6633 | 1.6633 | 1.6633            | 1.6633        |

## OTHER SPOT RATES

| Country   | Settlement | High    | Low     | Est. floor volume | Open Interest |
|-----------|------------|---------|---------|-------------------|---------------|
| Argentina | 1.6633     | 1.6633  | 1.6633  | 1.6633            | 1.6633        |
| Brazil    | 1.9204     | 1.9204  | 1.9204  | 1.9204            | 1.9204        |
| China     | 54.772     | 54.772  | 54.772  | 54.772            | 54.772        |
| Czech Rep | 34.772     | 34.772  | 34.772  | 34.772            | 34.772        |
| Egypt     | 3871.5     | 3871.5  | 3871.5  | 3871.5            | 3871.5        |
| Ghana     | 360.07     | 360.07  | 360.07  | 360.07            | 360.07        |
| Hungary   | 71.106     | 71.106  | 71.106  | 71.106            | 71.106        |
| India     | 24616.8    | 24616.8 | 24616.8 | 24616.8           | 24616.8       |
| Indonesia | 0.5094     | 0.5094  | 0.5094  | 0.5094            | 0.5094        |
| Kuwait    | 139.98     | 139.98  | 139.98  | 139.98            | 139.98        |
| Nigeria   | 1.6633     | 1.6633  | 1.6633  | 1.6633            | 1.6633        |

## INDUSTRIAL METALS


| LINE (\$/tonne) | Cash   | Chg    | 3 month | Chg  | LINEcode | Chgs     |       |
|-----------------|--------|--------|---------|------|----------|----------|-------|
| Aluminium HG    | 1314   | 1315   | 0.00    | 1344 | 1345     | 0 547475 | -2800 |
| Aluminium Alloy | 1225   | 1230   | 8.00    | 1223 | 1228     | 8 54660  | 390   |
| Copper A        | 1664.5 | 1665.5 | 8.50    | 1676 | 1677     | 8 251150 | -425  |
| Lead            | 522.5  | 523.5  | 0.50    | 539  | 540      | 1 106050 | -125  |
| Nickel          | 4420   | 4430   | 30.00   | 4490 | 4495     | 25 53926 | -50   |
| Tin             | 5700   | 5710   | 5.00    | 5640 | 5650     | 0 5070   | 180   |



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|-------------------|-----|-----|------|------|------|---------------|-----|-----|-------|------|------|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|------|------|------|-----------------|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| Electronics Corp. | 171 | 191 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 3.25 | Regal Vacuums | 160 | 147 | -1.51 | 1.37 | 5.00 | S. Boyce Marks, Los Angeles 90334 749 | 171 | 183 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 5.82 | Household Wares | 147 | 130 | 0.70 | 0.70 | 5.00 |
| Gorman Jewels     | 79  | 90  | 0.00 | 5.10 | 5.00 | Ind. Brown    | 160 | 147 | -1.19 | 1.43 | 5.00 |                                       |     |     |      |      |      |                 |     |     |      |      |      |

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# SPORT

## Dracula cliché count kills off England

IT WILL almost certainly go down in the annals of football commentary as the mother of all own goals. "There's only one team that's going to win this game now and that's England," Kevin Keegan asserted after Michael Owen had scored his dramatic equaliser against Romania. As soon as he had spoken the phrase Keegan tried to cover himself but the damage had been done. He knew that he had violated the professionals' code of superstition with that most dreadful of crimes, tempting fate.

He was not alone, however. Brian Moore had assured us that the Romanians would "fire significantly in the later stages of the game", exactly as 30-year-old Dan Petrescu did in the 90th minute, when Graeme Le Saux completely outthought him and won the ball to save the match for England. OK, that's enough knowing irony. While Moore and Keegan's

**STAN HEY**  
VIEW FROM THE  
ARMCHAIR



gaffes were individually memorable they were symptomatic of an ITV broadcast that revealed exactly why they always fluff a big event when it comes their way, and why that failure seems linked in the viewers' minds to England's.

ITV's ominous contribution had actually started the night before when Tony Francis, having been denied access to the Romanian camp,

the Polish keeper Jan Tomaszewski "a clown" in 1973, or Graham Taylor urging us to "get the beers in, sit down and relax", before one of his disastrous escapades unfolded.

Filled with foreboding, I just about survived Bob Wilson's lumbering introduction which yet again revealed that he has neither the vocabulary nor the delivery for what he called "a huge match, a huge occasion". A leading role in the forthcoming remake of *Thunderbirds* may be his best bet. But now ITV deployed their secret weapon - they had two former England managers on duty, Bobby Robson and Terry Venables, and the increasingly managerial John Barnes, so what else might you need? Well, how about a cheesy greeting to the England squad from the cast of *Coronation Street*? The lads in Toulouse must have been thrilled with that boost,

and the tactical advantage it gave them over the Romanians.

In between the fusillade of football-linked adverts, this "huge, momentous" occasion unfolded, to the extent that after twenty minutes I had the word "DULL" on my notepad in capital letters. As Brian Moore mistook Shearer for Anderton and Batty for Sheringham, it became obvious that he and Keegan were seeing one match while we at home were seeing another. Much was made of England's slow "tempo", the new buzzword for commentators, but not the reason for it - Sheringham giving the ball away and the Romanians not giving it back.

Only at half-time was some realism admitted. An agitated Venables accurately pinpointed Petrescu's growing authority over the wandering Le Saux, while Barnes described possession of the ball as "gold dust"

in the context of this game, with England more guilty than gilded. Moore had just embarked on another plea for England to "up the tempo" when Romania upped theirs first and scored. Gradually the narrative became all about breaking the glass in case of an emergency and pulling out little Michael Owen - a move that had seemed necessary even in the first half. The disparity between the commentary and what was actually happening in the match grew to its unfortunate climax, but there was still time for both Glenn Hoddle and Barnes to assert, without challenge, that "we did enough to win".

ITV's commercial pressures are a fact of life, and while that affects their choice of drama series they really cannot force football to fit into the same feel-good format just because England are playing. The Romanians beat us because they are

a shrewd, technically gifted, experienced team and not a bunch of vampire has-beens looking to get back to their castle to meet Dracula. Indeed, it was they who left England and ITV looking like a bunch of Counts.

The BBC's response to the game was to show highlights so edited in England's favour that you might have thought we had won. I doubt if Romanian television under Ceausescu was more biased. But Martin O'Neill, who is rapidly becoming a welcome renegade in among all the cosy opinions, ruthlessly demolished the impression of English superiority. "Nothing was happening until Owen came on, nothing, I don't buy the view that he has no fear because he comes on late. Owen will show no fear when he starts." Bring on the South American drugs barons, then!



Norman Berryman, the New Zealand Maoris centre, storms away from the England defence in the 62-14 defeat of the tourists at Rotorua yesterday

Ross Setford/Emptics

## Uttley has to admit gulf in standards

ENGLISH RUGBY union's inadequacies have been horribly exposed by their southern hemisphere tour admitted Roger Uttley, the England manager, yesterday.

England conceded a fourth half-century of points in five matches with the 62-14 hammering by a fired-up New Zealand Maoris side at Rotorua yesterday. In total, they have leaked 270 points and 38 tries, confirming a massive gulf in standards.

"We've got to ensure that the lessons we've learnt out here are taken on board," Uttley said. "They have got to be addressed because, unless we do, then England will founder."

The captain, Tony Diprose, had no excuses for the nine-try demolition, citing a damning missed tackle count - the Maoris' four to England's 24.

"It is very disappointing for all the players. We didn't see the ball for 20 minutes, and our first-up tackling let us down," Diprose said. "We need to go up two or three notches building towards next year's World Cup. If you miss the tackles, then you cannot expect to win at this level."

Brian Ashton, who supervised England for today's game with the side's coach, Clive Woodward, having returned home following his father's death, added: "You are talking about far greater strength and power between southern and northern hemispheres - there are some startling differences."

"The guys down here have a different concept of how to play the game. They use far more width, and it becomes a different ball game. If you miss tackles, then you are punished."

Few England players did their hopes of a Test call-up against New Zealand on Saturday any good. The possible exceptions were a committed Diprose, the try-scoring wing Spencer Brown and Sale's Jos Baxendell, who showed his footballing skills at centre and then at stand-off when he replaced Alex King.

The England flanker Richard Pool-Jones went to hospital for an X-ray examination on an injured ankle, and his chances of taking any further part in the tour do not look encouraging.

## England's Bay of Emptiness

**RUGBY UNION**  
BY CHRIS HEWETT  
at Rotorua

New Zealand Maoris 62  
England 14

THE BAY of Plenty groundstaff played "We'll Meet Again" as England, tails firmly between their legs, bade an inglorious farewell to Rotorua yesterday. Another meeting with the Maoris is the last thing on earth the tourists need but in one sense, the Vera Lynn connection was entirely appropriate. This was a blitz, pure and simple, and the reconstruction work on this generation of red rose apprentices will take an awfully long time to complete.

As Errol Brain, the Maoris captain, acknowledged after the B Test calamity of a desperate southern hemisphere trek - on average, England have lost their five matches to date by the excruciating margin of

54-13 - some members of the squad may never recover from the experience. "In New Zealand, we surround new players with guys who have been there and done a bit," the Counties No 8 said. "I think this will have a bad effect on one or two, for sure."

Barring a couple of notable exceptions - Tony Diprose, for instance, proved once and for all that he can indeed back it in the trenches as well as the wide open spaces - England were at their most shameful against a Maori outfit unbeaten in five years and 15 matches. No one remotely expected the tourists to win but equally, no one expected quite so many well-paid, professional players to disappear off the face of New Zealand's north island.

Brian Ashton, placed in charge of the midweek side, was forced into taking the previously unheard of step of substituting both half-backs, Peter Richards and Alex King, with more than half an hour left on the clock. Tim Stimpson and Matt Moore suf-

fered the entire catalogue of defensive humiliations against a direct and dynamic Maori back division; depressingly, even the Gloucester boys were as quiet as church mice. Phil Greening was as disappointing yesterday as he had been magnificent in Hamilton 10 days previously.

Ashton was in no mood for excuses. "These New Zealanders are playing a totally different game to the one we play in England," he said. "For a start, they use the whole of the pitch rather than the 35 per cent we bother with back home. The other difference, of course, is one of conditioning. To my mind, there is not a great gulf in terms of cardiovascular fitness. There is, though, no comparison in terms of explosive power. Make a half-tackle against these blokes and you quickly find that you've made no tackle at all."

Indeed, there were no English tackles worthy of the name: "We missed 24, they missed four," muttered Diprose, whose captaincy, han-

dling, ball-carrying and general enthusiasm under extreme duress confirmed him as a loose forward of international class. The first batch of defensive cock-ups came early as Lewis Moody and Tony Windo waved through Daryl Gibson in midfield. So clean was his break that Jim Coe was able to gallop over unmolested from the best part of 30 metres. Coe, by the way, is a 34-year-old lock.

With the brilliant Troy Flavell defining the Maori forward effort with the aggression of his close-quarter running and Rhys Duggan combining dangerously with Tony Brown at half-back, the locals were certainly by the break. Brown ghosted away from the uncertain King for the second try, while Norm Berryman, a deeply disturbing cross between Joseph Luzzi, Valaiga Tuqumala and a tank, added a third from distance. Just to make matters worse, England lost Richard Pool-Jones, their proud and committed flanker, with ankle problems shortly before the interval.

Berryman was at it again within five minutes of the restart, leaving Moody and Moore in his not inconsiderable wake as he steamrollered his way over from half-way. Then it was Dallas Seymour, followed by Duggan, followed by Adrian Cashmore, Tony Marsh and Roger Randle; try after try, each perfect execution unhindered and uninterrupted by the English whipping boys.

Jos Baxendell, switched to outside-half from outside centre to fill in for King, at least showed enough inventive louches to challenge for a starting place against the All Blacks on Saturday. Indeed, the maverick risk-taker from Sale contributed the single most accomplished touch of the night, chipping the ball over the Maori defence with his right knee rather than his right boot to create a late try for Spencer Brown.

There was not much else to shout about, apart from Diprose's deserved score on the final whistle. Perhaps the only Englishman with a

smile on his face was Danny Grewcock, the Saracens lock dismissed for kicking during last weekend's Test in Dunedin. The tour management will not appeal against his five-week suspension, a decision which gives him *carte blanche* to catch the first flight home. Damn his luck.

New Zealand Maoris: Tries Berryman 2, Coe, Brown, Seymour, Duggan, Cashmore, Marsh, Randle; Conversions Cashmore 7; Penalty Cashmore; England: Tries Brown, Diprose; Conversions Stimpson 2.

NEW ZEALAND MAORIS: A Cashmore (Auckland); R Randle (Wellington); N Berryman (Northland); A Marsh (Counties); D Gibson (Otago); A Brown (Otago); R Duggan (Hawke's Bay); R Marsh (Canterbury); S Marsh (North Harbour); K Meesman (Otago); J Coe (Counties); T Flavell (North Harbour); A Puffer (Canterbury); R Ralea (Counties, capt); D Seymour (Wellington). Replacements: J Kerr (Canterbury) for Gibson; S-C D Waller (Northland) for Puffer; G L Lidgeard (Counties) for Ralea; 70; D Muir (Wellington) for Flavell; 77.

ENGLAND: T Stimpson (Leicester); S Brown (Richmond); J Baxendell (Sale); S Ravenscroft (Saracens); M Moore (Sale); A King (Gloucester); P Richards (London Irish); A Whelan (Gloucester); P Greening (Gloucester); D Crompton (Richmond); R Piller (Gloucester); B Scarleham (Suff); R Pool-Jones (Stoke Francis); A Diprose (Saracens, capt); L Moody (Leicester). Replacements: S Ojemela (Gloucester) for Pool-Jones; S S Batten (Gloucester) for Richards; 47; T Bell (Sale) for King; 47.

Referee: P McFie (Southland).

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24/WIMBLEDON

# Courtcraft comes to rescue of hesitant Hingis

BY JOHN ROBERTS

THE OMENS were not good when it was noted that among the guests in the Royal Box were Mr and Mrs Flood. Fortunately it did not come to that, and the aforementioned High Commissioner for Australia and his wife were able to enjoy play between the showers.

A damp Tuesday greeted the traditional "Ladies day," and it was perhaps as well that nobody reminded Martina Hingis of what befell Steffi Graf on a wet and cold second day of the Championships in 1994.

On that occasion, Graf made the sort of history she would prefer to have kept off her CV by becoming the first defending champion to lose in the first round of the women's singles. The usually all-conquering German was defeated by the American serve and volleyer, Lori McNeil, who went on to reach the semi-finals.

McNeil, ranked No 127 in the world, had to rely on a wild card to get through the gates this year, and has the distinction of being the oldest player in the women's draw, aged 34. She spent much of yesterday wondering when the rain would go away. Around tea-time she was told that her first-round match against the Belgian Els Callens would not be played, in common with other matches scheduled third or fourth on the outside courts.

Hingis, 17, who last year became the youngest champion of the century, made a tentative opening to her title defence in defeating the American Lisa Raymond, 7-5, 6-3. Raymond, to be fair, is a difficult opponent. She narrowly missed a seeding with a ranking of No 19.

Last year, when Hingis dominated the majority of her matches, she became familiar with Raymond's feisty play, losing the last of their three previous matches in the quarter-finals of

an indoor tournament in her adoptive home city Zurich.

Whether this played on Hingis's mind, or whether she was slightly concerned about the odd twinge in her right wrist, she did not have the better of the early exchanges, finding herself forced to save a break point in the opening game and three more in the fifth.

It was not until Raymond double-faulted at 3-4 that Hingis had her first break point. The American compounded her serving errors by slicing a backhand over the baseline.

Serving out the set was not the formality for Hingis the spectators might have anticipated. She slipped while at

## YESTERDAY AT WIMBLEDON

- Rafter survives a third-set lapse to see off Heuberger
- Novotna breezes past fellow Czech Kleinova in straight sets
- Rusedski level 1-1 in sets with Draper when rain stopped play

tempting to prevent her opponent from passing her with a forehand for 30-40, and netted a backhand on the break point.

Raymond managed to salvage two set points in the 10th game, the first with her only ace of the match and the second by forcing Hingis to net a forehand, and then failed to convert a break point at 5-5, slicing a backhand wide.

In winning the 12th game Hingis showed the first real sign of the court-craft and shot-making that has taken her to No 1 in the world, producing a splendid winning forehand down the line from a deep position to create to set points. The first one

was converted when Raymond was lured into netting a backhand after 52 minutes.

Nine minutes later, with Hingis leading 2-1 on serve in the second set, the players retreated to the changing-room and the covers were on and off the court for an hour and a half before the match resumed.

Hingis, keen to finish the job, found Raymond difficult to subdue. The American saved three break points before missing with a backhand down the line after a spirited rally on the fourth. Hingis held to love for 4-1, and then battled with Raymond through four more break points before the American hit a backhand long on the fifth.

have confidence to play her game, and that is what she did very well. In the first couple of games I didn't know what to do. You play on Centre Court after one year, and I didn't have much practice."

The rain delay did not appear to affect her, chiefly because she had already managed to work her way back into the rhythm of grass-court tennis. "I just felt more comfortable," she said. "I was 2-1 up, so I was more confident going out there again. I started to feel the ball much better."

While players sometimes theorise about the benefits of a testing opening match, especially in the Grand Slam tournaments, Hingis did not go along with the notion on this occasion. "I would rather have easier matches, like at the French or Australian Open," she said. "When you play Wimbledon, you do not want to play the No 19 player you lost to last time you played her. I had to give everything to just get through the first round. I hope now it is going to be easier for the next two or three rounds."

Hingis acknowledged that she senses a difference in her approach this time around. "Last year I was still kind of the underdog," she said. "I was still seeded No 1 when I won the Australian Open and made the French finals, but on grass nobody expected me to win it or gave me the credit. And now I am the favourite, since [Anna] Kournikova is not in and [Mary] Pierce lost, and nobody knows what is going to happen with Steffi. It is a quite different feeling to come back here as a defending champion with the opening round. It feels good."

There was one disappointment for Hingis yesterday. Her boyfriend, the Spaniard Julian Alonso, was beaten in straight sets in the first round by Germany's Nicolas Pietrangeli.



Greg Rusedski goes for another ace against Mark Draper at Wimbledon yesterday

Robert Hallam

## Williams typecast for the American dream

BY GUY HODGSON

YOU CAN tell the girls with stellar potential by the attention paid to the biographical detail in the Women's Tennis Association handbook. Britain's Sam Smith, for example, has one favourite movie - *Dead Poets Society*. Venus Williams gets enough choices to fill several evening schedules on BBC2.

*Shawshank Redemption*, *Comeheads*, and *Alice Doesn't Live Here Any More* are just three of the seven listed which suggests Williams goes to the cinema more often than Barry Norman. Either that or she has a problem making her mind up.

Venus Williams, I hear you ask, what has she done to merit such scrutiny? Well she got to the US Open final last year for a start - the first non-seed to do so since Darlene Hard in 1958 - but in a sense that does not matter. The Americans are so desperate for a native-born female tennis player, that anyone with potential is typed to death. Then they really start looking for the superlatives.

The more so since the search for the next Chris Evert is taking on the epic proportions last seen when someone misplaced the Holy Grail. Tracy Austin and Andrea Jaeger have come and gone and Jennifer Capriati is heading that way and no one has fully filled in for the divine Miss E since she stopped winning Grand Slams 12 years ago. Hence the attention on Venus rising.

The 18-year-old Williams is quadruply blessed. Not only is she seen as one the women most likely to have Old Glory

fluttering proudly again hut the fact she is black and not from the WASP roots from which American players normally spring has had potential sponsors drooling. Then there is the sister, Serena, who might turn out to be better. Even Tiger Woods does not have that in his locker.

Jana Nejedly, Williams opponent yesterday, also has a sister on the tour but, as she fills none of the above criteria, with the possible exception of a mouth that did not necessarily have a silver spoon inserted when she was born, no one notices. Who cares about Canadians - unless they decide to become British of course.

Nevertheless for several minutes yesterday it appeared Nejedly might be a surprise inclusion in the women's second round. Williams fell at the first hurdle last year, a result which she says she has forgotten,

and a little thing appeared to have slipped her mind yesterday when her opponent was left on Court 13 for a full 10 minutes looking for someone to knock-up against.

Someone speculated that a slip had been made in Williams' hairstyle and her beads had spilled on the floor, a preposterous suggestion because such a disaster would take the entire Wimbledon fortnight to clear up, never mind a match. But just when it seemed a default might be imminent the American turned up with a "you've not been waiting for me, have you?" attitude which Joan Collins would have been proud of.

A wait, as Miss Collins could tell you, is only acceptable if the end product makes it worth it and it was difficult to criticise Williams. At 6ft 1in she would be striking even without the blue and white droplets in her locks (blue is her favourite

colour by the way) but the thing that really hits you is the difference when a tennis ball is in her vicinity.

When Williams walks she looks coltish, awkward even. Then the switch is pulled and she glides round a court with such energy, grace and power you wonder if you are watching the same person. The change was startling, recalling the story, albeit more extreme, of the England cricketers who giggled when they saw a young, seemingly uncoordinated player coming out to bat against them in the West Indies. His name was Clive Lloyd.

Not that Nejedly found the force being propelled towards her by the seventh seed remotely funny. She tried to match the high velocity shells only to find her accuracy could not compete and she lost the 6-3, 6-3 in 68 minutes of ferocious punishment.

It was a neat and tidy score but one that would have been over even more quickly if a rain interruption had not temporarily halted Williams' flow. Her serve, which is strong enough to suggest grass could become her favourite surface once she learns to live with its unpredictability, was broken at 2-1 in the second set, delaying the inevitable until the damage was immediately repaired.

"I don't have any expectation," Williams' mother, Oracene, said. "How can you predict anything at Wimbledon?" She might not expect, but her country does. Maybe not this time but in the near future certainly and yesterday she looked a future champion.



Star potential: Venus Williams has American fans harking back to the days of Chris Evert

Robert Hallam

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ROLEX











## 28/WORLD CUP

Lessons of defeat: England face a testing task to overcome Colombia with injuries complicating tactical choices  
**Midfield must restrict Valderrama's options**

I AGREED with Glenn Hoddle when he said that bad defensive goals cost England dear against Romania on Monday night. However I am not as ready as the England coach to put the blame on the defenders; to my mind the problem stemmed from a refusal by the midfield players and wing-backs to get close to their men and prevent them from playing the final pass or cross.

I don't understand the so-called modern game the television commentators go on about, a game when players seem to have time on the ball to look up and consider all their options. There is a thing called pressure that you can apply to the other team but I didn't see the England team apply any to the man on the ball at any stage of the game.

The service to Alan Shearer and



**JACK CHARLTON**

Teddy Sheringham was awful. It was an embarrassment to Sheringham, he did not have a single header at goal and I felt sorry for him. The other thing I don't understand about the modern game is that

if you use two wing-backs flanking three central defenders, the wide men are expected to get up the line and deliver good balls across and still be back to defend in deep positions. You are asking them to be both heart and soul of the team, and it can't be done.

On Monday night we did not see the wing-backs filling those positions where you can deliver decent balls in - in fact I got tired of watching Shearer running down the right flank to fire over crosses when the situation cried out for him to be in the middle, on the end of them.

What also happens is that the opposition have a lot of inviting space down the channels they are only too eager to exploit. Romania did this very well because they are capable of knocking short balls around and

then hitting a long pass to someone in space. They deserved their win, or at least they did on the basis of the first three-quarters of the game.

Kevin Keegan has taken some stick for saying that, after Michael Owen's equaliser, there could be only one winner of the game but he was right. It was there for England's taking if they had kept their shape, worked a bit harder and closed down in midfield.

Romania's winning goal was a travesty from England's point of view. It was not even a break from them: Dorinel Munteanu picked up the ball in a position of no particular danger 40 yards from goal and our midfield allowed him to have a good look where he wanted to put it. You could see Dan Petrescu, marked by Graeme Le Saux, begin

to make his run between the two centre-halves, and for some reason Le Saux stuck with him as though he had been instructed to mark him. It would surely have been better for Sol Campbell to track the run rather than staying in a sort of left-back position.

The first goal was not really a move at all, it was what I would call a progression; it was a ball that came across and if Campbell had put his head towards it, the referee would probably have awarded England a free-kick for dangerous play. The ball then fell behind Tony Adams and Viorel Moldovan put it away. I wouldn't particularly blame Adams - although Le Saux might have been a bit closer to stop the ball coming across; it was a goal that devel-

oped from a series of silly situations.

England's second-half performance was an improvement because we were able to release people from midfield to run at their defence. The introduction of David Beckham helped in that regard and Shearer was able to find a bit more space to try and turn his defender. I don't think the loss of Paul Ince affected us at all - we had no midfield in the first half anyway.

Still, there was no real service to the front men and only Paul Scholes was able to offer anything resembling support. For that I would blame the way we build up from the back. In many people's eyes I have become a critic of David Batty but I like midfield players to pass the ball forward, into the channels where Shearer and Sheringham can get

after the ball and get support from out wide.

I don't see that there is any way that Michael Owen will now not start for England on Friday. It is going to be a nervy affair and my first thought is that I don't want to watch Colombia use Carlos Valderrama as an old-fashioned midfield link-man who is free of marking duties. When they gain possession they look to feed him and he can do damage with his passing and his movement.

It is helpful to England that Colombia have to win the game while a draw will be enough for us. That means the South Americans will have to come at us and not rely on their normal combining game and quick breaks. I just hope England will learn the lessons of what went wrong against Romania.

# Time is ripe for Owen to blossom

After England's disappointing result against Romania, Glenn Hoddle must make some changes. By Glenn Moore

STATISTICALLY, ENGLAND'S defeat to Romania on Monday changed nothing. In human terms it changed everything.

While England still have to take a point from Colombia in Lens on Friday, the same as if they had drawn or won in Toulouse, expectations of the team have been radically altered, and its approach and composition should be.

In public none of this is admitted by Glenn Hoddle. Having blamed "sloppy defending" for the defeat in its immediate aftermath yesterday he blamed "naïve defending". He then insisted it was a good performance. It is time to blame himself and appraise his team's development honestly.

England have not played well since Rome in October, and then, it should be remembered, they drew 0-0. Contrary to myth, England did not tear the Azurri to shreds, they held them at bay.

Since then they have beaten limited opponents in Cameroon, Morocco and Tunisia, scratched draws with Switzerland, Saudi Arabia and Belgium, been beaten by Chile and Romania, and been outplayed by the superior technicians of Portugal. Yes, Portugal were beaten 3-0 at Wembley in April, but their passing exposed England, and they just lacked Romania's defensive nous and attacking edge.

With Colombia also technically gifted, and the equally talented and more steely Argentina next in line, England's prospects do not look good - but it is not over. They do have good players, it is time to deploy them better.

Michael Owen must start on Friday. When he came on on Monday, Romania suddenly looked worried. The classy Julian Filipescu, who had been marking Alan Shearer, switched to the teenager, leaving the less experienced Liviu Ciobotariu minding the England captain. The result was an Owen goal made by Shearer.

Yesterday Hoddle intimated that he might, indeed, start. "It was al-

ways on my mind to nurse him into the World Cup. He's learning quickly, he's off the mark and if he starts now the pressure will be on his shoulders but his confidence will be high. If he'd started two games and not scored people would be saying 'he's not ready'."

However, Hoddle quickly added that Teddy Sheringham "had done nothing wrong". After playing well against Tunisia it would be more accurate to say he did little right in Toulouse.

The time is right to play Owen. With Paul Gascoigne departed the need to play both Paul Ince and David Batty as cover, and Sheringham to link a deep midfield and otherwise isolated attack, is gone. With the more mobile David Beckham and Paul Scholes in midfield England can afford to play two up.

Ince's injury - and the omission of Nicky Butt - means that David Batty may survive for now but it is hard to see what he contributes against teams like Romania.

He cannot keep the ball except to move it sideways and, emasculated by more stringent refereeing, cannot niggly people. What is the point of having a Batty in the team if he does not take advantage of George Hagi's early loss of temper? Booked after three minutes and still prepared to argue with the referee Hagi was ripe to see a red card as well as the red mist.

Instead, given Darren Anderton's fine performance on the right - justification for Hoddle's choice although he was exposed defensively on occasion - Beckham should continue in central midfield.

"He proved he is more than capable of doing a great job there," said Shearer yesterday. "He couldn't have done more, the rest is up to the manager."

Hoddle was more circumspect, going out of his way to also praise Anderton and Batty. The danger is that, with only a draw required, this essentially defensive coach will go out against Colombia looking for just that.



England's Michael Owen being consoled after defeat by Romania on Monday David Ashdown

## Ince heads England injuries

BY GLENN MOORE

PAUL INCE is "50-50" to start England's decisive Group G World Cup tie against Colombia in Lens on Friday, Glenn Hoddle said yesterday. Ince suffered a recurrence of the ankle injury that troubled him late last season during the defeat by Romania and, the England coach added, "would definitely have been out if we had not taken him off."

Ince is the most serious of four injury doubts for England. Gareth Southgate is yet to shake off his ankle injury, Paul Scholes has a bruised wrist after being trodden on Monday and Sol Campbell has a jarred knee. Scholes and Campbell both took part in light training yesterday but Ince and Southgate did not.

Hoddle was also concerned about damage being done outside the England camp by external criticism, notably from Alex Ferguson. The Manchester United manager criticised Hoddle's decision to play Darren Anderton ahead of David Beckham at the weekend which, said Hoddle, "was unhelpful."

"People have to understand that it is up to me to pick the team and it is disappointing that some of the people criticising do the same job as me," he said. "I wouldn't put that pressure on Alex before a big European game. It didn't affect Darren, though, he would not have played so well if it had."

Anderton dismissed the remarks. "Everyone has a right to their opinion," he said.

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## Change of plan seems essential

ONE OF the questions raised by England's humiliating defeat in Toulouse is whether it makes any sense for Glenn Hoddle to persist with the system of play he stubbornly favours.

Another concerns the invigorating effect of Michael Owen's introduction against the Romanians on Monday night, but more of that later.

First the system - three central defenders and a five-man midfield with wing-backs. If Hoddle's point that David Seaman had very little to do in goal holds up, Romania found no great difficulty in dealing with the predictably wide angles of England's assaults or keeping the ball from them.

The ease with which they were able to infiltrate space between England's midfield and the defensive line without immediate confrontation cast fresh doubts on Hoddle's thinking.

Rather too much is made of strategy and tactics these days - superior individual technique and more intelligent team work was central to Romania's victory - but England's now beleaguered coach may have to seriously consider reversion to a collective method with which his defenders are more comfortable.

Flaws evident in the first match, especially the panic that almost led to Tunisia taking the lead in Marseille after six minutes, and then nearly equalising from a long diagonal pass that found England without adequate cover, were again apparent in Toulouse.

Praising his players for the intelligence they showed in achieving a result that guarantees Romania a place in the second round, Anghel Iordanescu smiled wryly when it was put to him, more or less, that England's general approach could be classified as prehistoric. "We respected England's strengths and knew that they would fight very hard," he said. "But we managed to play a thoughtful game, particularly in the second half when England came back strongly at us."

Significantly, Romania did not make the naive mistake of bundling into the back of Alan Shearer, as Tunisia did when giving away eight free-kicks around the penalty area.

England simply allowed Shearer to drop off before quickly closing down the space into which he then turned. In fact Shearer rarely threatened, his general ineffectiveness when denied quality service from the flanks renewing the suspicion that he is more in decline than people have imagined.

The controversy surrounding Darren Anderton's selection ahead of David Beckham on the right side of midfield was given fresh impetus when the Manchester United man was sent on after Paul Ince's injury. Beckham's longer passing gave England more attacking thrust but did not greatly trouble Romania who defended in depth, usually ensuring



**KEN JONES**

attacks were not falling behind them.

Romania's first goal less than two minutes after half-time resulted from a criminal lapse in concentration on the left side of England's defence. There was no immediate threat from a throw-in, but Romania were allowed to work the ball into England's penalty area and create a chance that saw Moldovan slip Tony Adams for a goal that must have excited those Coventry City supporters who didn't feel like cursing him.

The biggest cheer heard from England's large contingent in Toulouse came when they saw Owen preparing to come on, with barely 15 minutes left, as a replacement for Teddy Sheringham who had done very little to justify his presence as Shearer's attacking partner.

Hoddle said afterwards that he had not given Owen any specific role, simply telling him to go out and enjoy himself. Enjoyment on a football field for Owen is putting the ball into the net, and his close-in equaliser from Neville's low centre revived England's faith in going wide to attack.

Until then the quality of England's crosses, most of them easily dealt with by Romania's tall goalkeeper and the central defenders, could be described as pathetic. Neville's delivery was more or less perfect and Owen made the most of it.

When the youngest goalscorer in England's history then shot against an upright with Bogdan Stilea probably beaten, the cry went up for his permanent inclusion.

Hoddle will have to think as much about this as a change in formation. Romania were disturbed by Owen's pace and directness but would, of course, have made provision for it had the Liverpool forward started the match. "The lad did very well," Hoddle said in assessment.

Well enough to make life even more difficult for Hoddle should he choose to leave Owen on the substitutes' bench for Friday's vital match against Colombia in Lens.

It will come as a big surprise if England do not qualify for the next round, but defeat in Toulouse has left their coach with a big dilemma. Does he change the shape of his team? Does he go with Owen?

## We of little faith left to wander with lost souls

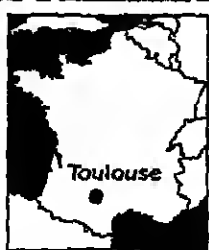
NOT ONLY was it semi-impossible to get into the ground - not unless you wanted to fork out £200 for a ticket (and there were plenty of takers at that price), it was hard enough to find a screen anywhere in Toulouse to watch the game.

I knew the giant screen at the Village Occitan had been taken down, not to be put up again until after the big match. But I did not expect Le Carpeccio and Cafe Wilson to cravenly unplug their televisions too. You could watch USA-Iran the day before, but not England-Romania.

Fortunately, the B20 American Sports Live Bar, on the Rue des Trois Journées, was brave enough to keep its sets switched on and provide a home-from-home for England refugees. Why this place should be called "H2O" I've no idea, because



**ANDY MARTIN**  
AT LARGE IN FRANCE



water is about the one drink it doesn't have. "We're not going to lose this," asserted Phil with serene confidence. "The worst we'll get out of it is a draw."

There was a lot of heated discussion over team selection. Everyone thought Beckham and Owen should be on the field and not on the bench, and Sheringham (lazy) and Ander-

ton (a crippled donkey) off. Basically, anyone who was on should be off and anyone who was off should be on.

We were all staunchly pro-Gazza too - the bring-him-on-for-the-last-20-minutes tendency. "Gazza is a game-turner," reckoned Tom, "we don't have too many of those. But Hoddle won't have anyone who doesn't fit his holier-than-thou

lifestyle." The anti-Hoddle tirade ironically finished with a poignant neo-Hoddlian. "You've got to have faith though - you've got no choice."

It was some time around the middle of the second half, when we were really up against it, that I started feeling physically sick. I'd only had one beer and a fruit juice cocktail, but with all the giant pitches sliding across my table, I'd probably done an awful lot of involuntary drinking. The combination of staggering outside for some air and England scoring produced an instantaneous recovery. A miracle had taken place. And then God finally died.

"Subdued" would be an overstatement of the post-match mood: "funereal" might do it. There was only one consoling thought, offered

by a Manchester United fan, who had been vainly trying to explain to a local woman why he followed United: "He'll have to bring back Gazza now."

In the bleak main square of the Capitole, where the England supporters poured back in from the stadium, every bar had closed, but even if they'd all been open I doubt it would have brightened things up much. One poor soul tried to start up a chorus of "Super Michael Owen", but found himself singing alone. There is no sadder sound than a fan singing alone.

Tim, a cameraman, came up to me and said forlornly, "I'm supposed to be filming the party - the fête. What am I going to shoot now?" Outside the railway station, someone, possibly Arabic, was trying to

account for the disaster to a small bunch of England supporters. "Two defensive errors," he said, accurately enough, then pointed up at the sky more mysteriously. "God, it is his fault." "God?" spluttered one of the English. "Hod, you mean." We had lost our faith.

The night train back to Paris was roughly an hour late, but England had gone right off the tracks. The passengers sat slumped, crushed, defeated, the living dead. That train was as lively as a coffin on wheels. The gendarmes at Montparnasse heartlessly shepherded us down into the metro. I didn't want to go on the metro, but they didn't want us wandering the streets in case we should depress anyone. I managed to sneak out of a side exit. A small, balding, pleasant young (el-

low in glasses stopped me to ask what all the police were doing surrounding the station. I told him about what had happened and he slipped a sympathetic hand around my shoulder and offered to buy me a drink. I told him I was too tired.

"I have a little place where you can sleep if you want," he said, gazing into my eyes. My reputation for shaking up with other guys had obviously preceded me. It was the best offer I had, but I turned it down in favour of a visit to Montparnasse cemetery, where Jean-Paul Sartre and Serge Gainsbourg are buried, to commune with other lost souls. Le sport rhymes with la mort.

I remember that in one of Victor Hugo's books, after a devastating tragedy, he leaves the page blank, as a sign of respect. The rest is silence.



# Hagi's class ruled England



EAMON DUNPHY

ENGLAND'S LIMITATIONS were exposed by Romania in Toulouse.

There can be no doubt now that, for all his mind games, Glenn Hoddle is not the tactical genius that he believes himself to be.

Romania will never win the World Cup. Nobody thought they would, not even patriotic Romanians. But England's hope that they would be the champions is an illusion that can now be dispelled.

The Romanians, experienced World Cup warriors, gave England a football lesson. First, the most important thing in football is possession of the ball. Second, passing and movement win you games at this level. So does talent. Tactics matter, psychology is essential to the business.

But the priority that Hoddle has placed on tactics and playing games with the media, worse still with his own players, will be exposed in this tournament.

The most important lesson Hoddle could learn from last night's match is that talent matters above all else.

George Hagi is richly gifted. At 33, his legs don't cover the ground the way they used to. But he has that little touch of class that matters in a match.

England set out to bully him, Paul Ince being delegated this task. Three minutes into the match Hagi had a go at Ince. Just to let the Liverpool player know he wasn't going to be intimidated.

ITV's commentators, Brian Moore and Kevin Keegan, soon began to take the piss out of Hagi, whose shots at England's goal flew high and wide in the early stages. The thought occurred that the little Romanian would only need to get lucky once.



George Hagi of Romania refuses to be intimidated by England's Paul Ince in Toulouse yesterday

Allsport

England were aggressive. Romania technically accomplished. Translated, that means that England ran a lot while Romania controlled the movement of the play. Hagi continued to spray shots into the stand high above England's goal.

On the half-hour David Beckham replaced the injured Ince in midfield. England at this stage badly needed a touch of creativity. Alan Shearer looked frustrated. His body language was telling. England were fortunate to be level at half-time.

Two minutes into the second half Romania gained the lead they deserved. The circumstances seemed innocuous, a throw-in on the right 20 yards from the byline. Hagi slipped his marker (Graeme Le Saux) and gained a yard, which was enough. A delicate touch lofted

the ball over Adams' head to Viorel Moldovan who crashed a volley past Seaman. Willy old Gheorghe has never lost it. One touch of class is worth 10 gallons of sweat. ITV had stopped taking the piss.

Hagi, Adrian Ilie, Moldovan and Dan Petrescu all featured for Romania. However, less familiar names should also figure on the roll of honour: Constantin Galca, Dorinel Munteanu, Gheorghe Popescu and the centre-back Liviu Ciobotaru (who comprehensively won his battle with Shearer) all contributed significantly to a very dominant Romanian performance.

The English fans began to chant for the introduction of Michael Owen, Liverpool's astonishing youngster. At 18, some feel Owen is too young for World Cup football.

Others believe if you're good enough, you're old enough. With 20 minutes left, Hoddle succumbed to the terraces, also perhaps to his own football sense.

Owen was introduced to a huge cheer. As Kevin Keegan commenting on ITV said: "40,000 people can't be wrong! That's why Kevin is managing Fulham! He was wrong about the numbers as well, only 20,000 English fans packed the terraces."

Anyway, Kevin and the 40,000 people who couldn't be wrong were proved to be right: with seven minutes left Owen scored a wonderful opportunistic goal.

Watching this on ITV was a joy. The English with their backs to the wall are funny.

Brian Moore is funny anyway. Kevin Keegan is a howl. They

were up and down all night like a whore's drawers. One minute laughing at Hagi, the next admiring his sly touch. With two minutes left and England pressing forward it seemed that something had been salvaged for Hoddle and his team. And the 40,000 who couldn't be wrong. Then Keegan ruined everything. "Only one team can win now," Kevin suggested. He didn't need to say which team. "I hope I'm not tempting divine providence," the great man added.

Those words were still resonating when divine providence did what many ITV viewers have wanted to do for a very long time: screw Keegan.

After 89 minutes Le Saux made another mistake. Le Saux is good going forward with the ball at his feet. His problem is that yard that matters at this level.

This time he allowed his Chelsea colleague Petrescu to gain the slightest advantage which Petrescu translated into victory. Keegan and Moore were down again.

And England, poor England were, well, not going to win the World Cup anyway, even if Owen popped up again to hit a post with a stinging shot from 20 yards in the last minute.

As for Anderton? He played okay but England should play Beckham out wide and Owen at centre-forward. That's the way ahead.

But don't miss Keegan on ITV if you want to enjoy your football. Talking of a Romanian player who'd changed clubs, he remarked: "He's left Barcelona for 'pastors' new." Surely, he meant pastures. Although with Keegan you never know.



## DIARY

Unless Glenn Hoddle's team improve, the best place for an Englishman to follow the World Cup might well be from the isolated British Antarctic Survey stations on the remote ice-capped continent where there is currently 24 hours of midwinter darkness each day. Unable to receive terrestrial or satellite television, the teams are dependent on the BBC World Service for developments in France but the signal is often too weak. Staff at the survey's Cambridge headquarters are sending regular e-mails and pages of football news to the 37 engineers and scientists hunkered down on England and Scotland.

Sports Department an "emergency" parcel of ties. Included was a terse letter claiming that "at a time when then world image of English and Scottish football is at an all-time low, it is disappointing to witness the BBC's team demonstrating a somewhat slovenly mode of dress. May we venture to suggest that such on-screen scruffiness sets a poor example to viewers and we would hope for better from the BBC."

The Iranian players will receive around \$4,600 apiece from their government for their defeat of the United States. That is in addition to the \$2,000 paid to them for the 1-0 defeat by Yugoslavia in their first World Cup game in 20 years. The combined payment compares unfavourably with the \$26,000 plus a Mercedes car that the Saudi Arabia players each received when qualifying for the 1994 World Cup yet in Iran, where a good monthly salary amounts to about £130 it will do very nicely thank you.

TREVOR HAYLETT

## QUOTES OF THE DAY

"They had two or three chances and scored two goals. They were sloppy goals. They just happen sometimes." Sol Campbell, England defender, on Monday's defeat to Romania.

"I'm certain that they'll qualify by beating Colombia." Dan Petrescu, Romania's match-winner, with comforting words for England.

"I think Shearer needs more support up front and Michael is the man to come in and help him." Roger Hunt, England World Cup winner, on Michael Owen.

## Vieira to face Danes

THE ARSENAL midfielder Patrick Vieira - called up by France for his first match in the World Cup finals against Denmark today - has said he will play his normal physical game, despite the rash of yellow and red cards in the tournament so far.

The fiery 21-year-old was frequently cautioned last season when he was a key figure in the Gunners' Double-winning side. But Vieira - brought in alongside club-mate Emmanuel Petit for captain Didier

Deschamps, who is on one yellow card - has promised not to alter his style.

"I will be more careful but it won't change my game. I have a game that I wouldn't say is aggressive, but full of commitment," he said. "It's up to me to adapt, as players like me are penalised more than others. While a tackle in England wouldn't merit a booking, it could bring one here. It's up to the referee."

"In the position where I play there are numerous individ-

ual battles and it is better to win them without being dirty. You don't go out to hurt anybody."

Vieira is expecting a physical tussle in midfield. "Denmark have a great team with some talented players, so there will be no quarter given. They need a win and although we're already in the second round, we must finish top of the group."

Centre-back Frank Leboeuf returns to the France side as well today in place of Laurent Blanc, who is also on a yellow card, and Marcel Desailly, his new partner at Chelsea next season, is happy to welcome him back.

Desailly has not played alongside Leboeuf in the national side since March, when France lost 1-0 to Russia in Moscow - their only defeat together in six-and-a-half matches.

Denmark's coach, Bo Johansson, is expected to reinforce the wings to combat France's power down the flanks. "It's the defence that needs to be strengthened," said Derby's Jacob Laursen, who may return to the Danish team.

## Vogts is angered by threat to quit

BERTI VOGTS, Germany's coach, said yesterday he had been angered by a suggestion his team might pull out of the World Cup because of an attack on a French policeman by German hooligans.

Vogts said he felt he had been personally attacked when an unnamed German federation official asked him about withdrawing. The coach revealed he had been confronted with the idea in the early hours of the morning on Monday, following the attack in Lens after his team's 2-2 draw with Yugoslavia on Sunday.

The French policeman is fighting for his life in a deep coma after being beaten about the head. "I had to deal with the question at two in the morning and I was angry," Vogts said. "What can the team do [about it]? I was very hurt by what the German Football Federation planned. It has left behind its scars. It has nothing to do with the team."

Yesterday Vogts took the unusual step of confirming that the 37-year-old Lothar Matthaus would definitely play in tomorrow's game against Iran in Montpellier, in what will be his record 23rd World Cup match. Vogts would not say, though, whether he would play Matthaus at the back as sweeper or in midfield.

Tunisia sacked their coach, Henryk Kasperczak, yesterday after his team failed to qualify for the second round. The Pole, the third coach to suffer this fate in four days, will be replaced by his deputy, Ali Selmi. Kasperczak had already signed to coach the French club, Bastia, next season.

World Cup referees have been encouraged to clamp down on players asking for an opponent, who has fouled them, to be booked or sent off.

"They should take stricter action against something which is an act of dissent and bad sportsmanship - trying to get an opponent into trouble," the Fifa spokesman, Keith Cooper, said.

## Paraguay to keep it tight

CAUTION WILL once again be the by-word for Paraguay when they tackle the Group D winners Nigeria in Toulouse today. The South Americans have yet to score in the tournament but they have not conceded any goals either. Paulo Cesar Carpegiani's team go into the game knowing another shut-out will give them a chance of de-

fying the odds and progressing to the second round as they did in 1986 in Mexico when they were beaten 3-0 by England. After two goalless draws Paraguay are second in the group with two points, one more than Bulgaria and Spain, who meet in Lens.

A third 0-0 draw for the South Americans against al-

ready qualified Nigeria would be enough to see them into the last 16 - but only if Bulgaria and Spain cancel each other out in their match.

The goalkeeper captain and free-kick specialist Jose Luis Chilavert said the South Americans will not underestimate Nigeria. "We won't make the same mistake as Spain," he said. "After all we're playing the best team in the World Cup at the moment."

Johan Cruyff has slammed Spain's over-confidence as their France 98 future hangs by a thread. The Dutchman, who led Barcelona to the 1992 European Cup during a hugely-successful spell at the Catalan club, said: "The trouble with Spain is in their heads. They thought they had it pretty much won before they arrived."

He added: "They were over-confident. But they're not exactly disappointed me. After all, Spain has never done anything at a World Cup."

### GROUP C: THE PERMUTATIONS

France are certain of qualifying but Denmark can still beat them to the top position. Saudi Arabia are eliminated. The group winners meet the runners-up from Group D on Sunday; the second-placed teams meet Nigeria on the same day. Qualification decided by 16 order: points, goal difference, number of goals scored, outcome of encounter between the two sides, drawing lots.

1 France beat Denmark; South Africa beat Saudi Arabia; France win group and both Denmark and South Africa finish with four points. In this scenario South Africa would need to overturn a four-goal deficit. Because the group game between Denmark and South Africa finished all-square, the drawing of lots is a real possibility.

2 France beat Denmark; South Africa draw with Saudi Arabia; France win group and Denmark are runners-up.

3 France beat Denmark; Saudi Arabia beat South Africa; France win group and Denmark are runners-up.

4 France draw with Denmark; South Africa beat Saudi Arabia; France win group and Denmark are runners-up.

5 France draw with Denmark; South Africa draw with Saudi Arabia; France win group and Denmark are runners-up.

6 France draw with Denmark; Saudi Arabia beat South Africa; Denmark win group and France are runners-up.

7 Denmark beat France; South Africa draw with Saudi Arabia; Denmark win group and France are runners-up.

8 Denmark beat France; South Africa beat Saudi Arabia; Denmark win group and France are runners-up.

### GROUP D: THE PERMUTATIONS

Nigeria are certain of winning the group and will meet the runners-up from Group C on Sunday. Qualification decided by (in order): points, goal difference, number of goals scored, outcome of encounter between the two sides, drawing lots.

1 Spain beat Bulgaria; Nigeria beat Paraguay; Spain finish as runners-up.

2 Spain beat Bulgaria; Nigeria draw with Paraguay; Nigeria finish as runners-up.

3 Spain beat Bulgaria; Paraguay beat Nigeria; Paraguay finish as runners-up.

4 Spain draw with Bulgaria; Nigeria beat Paraguay; Nigeria finish as runners-up.

5 Spain draw with Bulgaria; Nigeria draw with Paraguay; Nigeria finish as runners-up.

6 Spain beat Bulgaria; Paraguay beat Nigeria; Paraguay finish as runners-up.

7 Spain beat Bulgaria; Paraguay draw with Nigeria; Paraguay finish as runners-up.

8 Spain draw with Bulgaria; Paraguay draw with Nigeria; Paraguay finish as runners-up.

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30/WORLD CUP

# Sierra completes Chilean mission

BY TOMMY STANFORTH  
at Stade de Beaujoire, Nantes

Chile  
Sierra 21  
Cameroon  
Mboma 56

Air: 39,000

CHILE'S LONG wait to reach the last 16 of the World Cup finally ended yesterday after a thrilling 1-1 draw against Cameroon, who finished their last game at the tournament with only nine men on the field.

Chile, who have not won a game at the World Cup in 12 matches since they came third on home soil in 1962, qualified with three draws - against Italy, Austria and Cameroon.

"It's mission accomplished," said Chile's top striker, Marcelo Salas. "It took a lot of effort to qualify." His side now meet the favourites, Brazil, in Paris on Saturday.

The African side had the defender Rigobert Song and a substitute, Lavrindo Etame, sent off in the second half but they still managed to push the Chileans all the way. The South Americans path to the second round seemed assured at half-time when they led thanks to a magnificent 21st-minute free-kick over the wall from the midfielder Jose Luis

Sierra, originally drafted into the side to provide better service for Salas and Ivan Zamarrano. Instead, a powerful header from Patrick Mboma put Cameroon back on terms within four minutes of the first red card and his side threatened to steal a winner on several occasions.

Cameroon's chances of gaining more reward were undone by a lack of discipline. They were already missing Raymond Kalla, sent off against the Italians, and Song was always likely to get into trouble when he caught Salas a glancing blow in the face with his elbow and was dismissed. He had been booked earlier - it had been Song who conceded the free-kick which produced Sierra's effort and his name was in the referee's book as early as the eighth minute.

With or without 22 men on the field, both defences looked shaky for much of a game which could easily have brought several goals for both sides. Once Sierra had struck from outside the area, Salas had a shot kicked off the line by Joseph Ndo. At the other end, Mboma went close on three occasions, Francois Omam Biyik had a goal ruled out for a close offside decision and Cameroon's captain then forced the goalkeeper, Nelson Tapia, into a reaction save as the ball flew fast at his head.

Cameroon had several more chances and the game's finale was played out in the Chilean goalmouth, despite the loss of Etame. Experiencing his first World Cup action, he was on the pitch for barely six minutes before scything down Salas near the touchline a minute from the end of normal time and receiving his marching orders.

Chile had four men booked themselves, including Francisco Rojas, Nelson Parraguez and Moises Villarroel, who will all miss the next match. They must now face the world champions and, while Salas and Zamarrano remain a consistent threat, they seem incapable of hanging on to a lead once ahead.

"It's probably the hardest test we could have faced - but I promise Brazil will have a hard time beating us," said the Chilean coach, Nelson Acosta. "We will try and make it a very good game."

**CHILE:** Tapia (Universidad Catolica); Poncelet (Universidad de Chile); Villarroel (Wanderers); Rojas (Universidad Catolica); Reyes (Colo Colo); Salas (Colo Colo); Acosta (Universidad de Chile); Parraguez (Universidad Catolica); Sierra (Colo Colo); Zamarrano (Internacional); Salas (River Plate); Substitutes: Carrasco (Universidad Catolica) for Villarroel; 70; Estay (Juventus) for Sierra; 70; Miguel Ramirez (Universidad Catolica) for Rojas; 77.

**CAMEROON:** Song (Deportivo La Coruna); Etame (Metz); Mboma (Montpellier); Nkomo (Racing Boulogne); Wome (Luchesse); Ouedraogo (Nantes); Pons (Bordeaux); Ndo (Coton Sport Garoua); Jaha (Youre); Omam Biyik (Sam Sport); Mboma (Camba Omba); Substitutes: Angbwa (Nice) for Ouedraogo; 66; Etame (Piercha Berlin) for Jaha; 73; Etame (Levante) for Ndo; 83.

Referee: L. Vagner (Hungary).



Patrick Mboma of Cameroon charges past Chile's Pedro Reyes during yesterday's drawn Group B encounter in Nantes

## IN FRANCE WITHOUT A TICKET

Nicholas Horling's daily quest to see a World Cup match: Day 14

THE INVASION of Paris by England fans on the early-morning TGV from Toulouse thankfully had little to do with any overwhelming desire to witness yesterday's game at the Stade de France. En-route to Lens or homeward-bound, the English contingent was still too stunned by the defeat against Romania either to contemplate misbehaving on the train or to want to take in another fixture so soon. Neither, fortunately, did many Austrians who appeared, after two opening draws, to have given up on their country. That was not good news for the touts, whose earlier inflated offers for tickets were easily resisted. Prices came tumbling down just before the kick-off, I purchased a 250 franc ticket for 325fr.

Total spent: 13. Total cost per ticket: 5.38fr. Total profit: 5.45fr. Two failures to get in.

## Hiddink urges caution

GUUS HIDDINK, the Netherlands' coach, says he will make few, if any changes, for tomorrow's game with Mexico from the team that began the 3-0 rout of South Korea. He said yesterday: "We will be aiming to neutralise their strengths but I don't envisage any changes."

The Netherlands face Mexico in their final Group E match in St Etienne. Patrick Kluyvert is still out though suspension but otherwise Hiddink has no selection problems. Phillip Cocu, who opened the scoring on Saturday, had an ankle injury but resumed training on Tuesday. The midfielder Ronald de Boer sat out training but is expected to be available. Wim Jonk who learned of the death of a close friend on Monday, has decided to stay in France.

The Dutch coach had few complaints about the way his team performed on Saturday but said he wants a "return to basics" tomorrow.

Against South Korea, he said the team lost the ball too often, particularly in the early phases, and were too intent on delivering the killer pass. He said he hoped the Dutch would continue to work off the ball and pass in triangles until a clear opening appeared. He said: "I think we needed to apply the brake on some occasions."

Hiddink knows a draw should be enough to ensure the Dutch win Group E but says they will not play with that in mind. He said: "I don't think we can play in such a calculated way." Hiddink mentioned four Mexican players the Dutch would need to watch - striker Luis Hernandez "who is hot," Cuauhtemoc Blanco "who is threatening on the right, the left and in the middle," Jesus Ramirez "with his fine passing" and substitute midfielder Jesus Arellano.

He added: "We have seen they have a great deal of individual talent and in a tropical

environment on Saturday they showed they have real character. We must be very sharp and attentive."

The Belgium coach, Georges Leekens, yesterday called up the winger Nico van Kerckhoven to replace the injured Danny Boffin for his team's final World Cup Group E match against South Korea tomorrow. Leekens said there were also fitness doubts about the captain, Franky van der Elst, and the goalkeeper Filip De Wilde for a game which Belgium must win to stay in the hunt for a second-round place.

Leekens said De Wilde is still dogged by a groin problem and might be replaced by the 37-year-old keeper Philippe Vande Walle. He added that Van der Elst, also 37, suffered from the heat and fatigue after Saturday's match against Mexico.

Van der Elst, who asked to be replaced after just 10 minutes against Mexico, was still unwell

on Monday. Leekens said: "He had to dig very deep against Mexico. But I'll always wait for a player like him."

Leekens hinted, however, that Van der Elst would be replaced by Philippe Clement Clement played a "fantastic match" against the Netherlands. I know [Van der Elst], he's always straight with me. He'll tell me whether he'll be able to play."

Leekens reckoned that the FC Metz winger Boffin, who suffered a knee injury against Mexico last Saturday, would be out for the tournament. Leekens added: "This kind of injury doesn't heal in just a few days."

But Leekens said he was keeping the faith with his strikers Luc Ntias and Luis Oliveira, despite mounting criticism that they have so far failed to deliver and should be dropped in favour of the brothers, Lokonda "Emile" Mpenza and Mbo Mpenza.

## Iranian stars aim to cash in

IRAN'S JUBILANT players returned to training yesterday but some had more than Sunday's historic 2-1 win over the United States on their minds. Their victory has put the Iranian players firmly in the football spotlight and now they could be poised to cash in with lucrative contracts from foreign clubs.

Already the centre-forward Ali Daei has signed for the German giants Bayern Munich after his former club Arminia Bielefeld were relegated from the Bundesliga. Khodadad Azizi also played

in Germany last season with Cologne. But with his club also going down he is expected to move in time for next season. The tricky front-man has brought his German-based agent with him to France and the agent has been given to his mobile phone for the last week.

Azizi has expressed a preference for a move to Spain, but yesterday he said he would not be announcing any deal until after Iran's involvement in the World Cup is over. "After the World Cup my situation will be clear," he said.

Right-winger Mehdi Mahdavi, who topped an impressive performance against the US with his team's second goal, said he expects to leave his Iranian club Pirouzi after the tournament. "I think after the World Cup I will go to the German league," Mahdavi said. He said he was in talks with a German club but had not yet signed a contract.

Goalkeeper Nima Nakisa may be coming back to France sooner than he imagined. He said on Monday that it was "80 per cent sure" he would be join-

ing French First Division club Nantes.

Another Iranian with business to complete is national team coach Jalal Talebi. He is working without a contract but hopes to secure his future soon. After calling the victory over the US "the biggest success of my career" he hopes to tie up a permanent deal with the Iranian federation.

"It will be discussed after the Cup is finished but I want to stay," he said. "It is my country and it is an honour to represent them in this way."

ROMANIAN DAILY newspapers printed supplements to mark Monday's 2-1 victory over England. "Cobra's dance hypnotises England," was the headline in Zina, referring to the nickname of the striker Adrian Ilie. "Romania descends into the streets."

The newspaper praised the coach, Anghel Iordanescu, as the man of the hour, lionising him as "Anghel - the Angel!" The daily Pro Sport singled

## THE GLOBAL GAME

WORLD CUP AROUND THE WORLD

out Dan Petrescu's last-minute winning goal with the headline: "Dan-gerous: Death for England comes from the East."

The significance of the goals scored by Petrescu and Moldovan - both playing in the

English Premier League - was not lost on Romania's Libera. "Englishmen Moldovan and Petrescu bring England to its knees."

Another daily newspaper, National, went so far as to apologise for articles last

month accusing some Romanian players of enjoying lavish lifestyles while the country wallowed in poverty. Radio Bucharest said the score did not fully reflect the extent to which Romania had dominated the game. "Hagi and his team-mates laid down the law on the pitch for most of the match," a commentator said with glee.

Compiled by Rupert Metcalf



We send our congratulations to Austria. But, being called Aggro (which means blue ribbon) you'll understand why our hopes are still with the Aggro. After all, you have to look after Numero Uno.

Aggro's Numero Uno. Italy's Numero Uno. Etc.

هذا من الاصل







## SPORT

WHERE NOW FOR HODDLE P28 &amp; 29 • MAORI MAULING FOR ENGLAND P23

## Baggio has the finishing touch for Italians

By JOHN LICHFIELD  
at Stade de France, St DenisItaly 2  
Vieri 49, R Baggio 89  
Austria 1  
Herzog pen 90  
Att: 75,000

THIS HAD the look of a soporific game before the kick-off and the pessimists were not disappointed. Italy controlled the game throughout - with Luigi Di Biagio tireless in midfield - but they have still to play a fully convincing 90 minutes in France 98.

Do they have enough in reserve to outrun or outwit the likes of Brazil or Argentina or even France, their possibly quarter-final opponents? They do not have to show their full hand yet. The win was enough to give Italy the championship of Group B and a last-16 match in Marseille on Saturday against Scotland, Norway or Morocco.

The game began in permanent slow motion with few pas-

sages worth replaying. Was there a ball on the pitch? It hardly mattered. Mexican waves are usually a tedious distraction. In the first 20 minutes of this match, the wave which made lazy circuits of the beautiful, sunlit Stade de France, was the only entertainment on offer.

Italy wanted Austria to come out and play; Austria insisted that the Italians must come round to their house. Stalemate. Mysteriously, with dozens of millions of pounds of midfield talent on the bench - Albertini, Di Matteo, Di Livio - Cesare Maldini chose to play an extra defender, Gianluca Pessotto, in midfield. Up front Alessandro Del Piero looked wily and pacy when he had the chance but was regularly clattered by Heimo Pfeifenberger, Paul Durkin, the English referee, gave him little protection.

After 25 minutes or so, both sides seemed to get bored at once. When Ivica Vastic put Dietmar Kubbauer through on the right, he was pushed over by Fabio Cannavaro just outside

the area, but Durkin ruled that there was no foul.

Pessotto playing well forward, despite his usual defensive role for Juventus, scurried down the left and thumped a low centre across the goal. It was met on the half-volley by Francesco Moriero but the ball skidded wide of the far upright.

In the last minute of the half, Austria - last-minute specialists in their two previous 1-1 draws in Group B - almost surprised themselves by taking the lead. Vastic cut in from the left, but Anton Polster could not control his cross and Pessotto cleared. The teams went off to boos from the large number of uncommitted spectators, the truth is that this World Cup has spoiled us all: there have been few matches like this.

The half-time score from Nantes may have alarmed the Italians. With Chile leading Cameroon 1-0 it only needed two more Chilean goals to dump Italy in to a last 16 game against Brazil.

For whatever reason, the

Italians came out looking for a goal and got one. Peter Schotter fouled the much-fouled Del Piero on the left; the Juventus striker took the free-kick himself, scooping the ball high over an Austrian defence which unaccountably forgot about the other striker, Christian Vieri. From point-blank range, he headed the ball almost vertically down and into the net.

Would we have a game at last? It turned out that the Austrians could play well enough when they had to. A cross from Pfeifenberger was played back by Vastic and fired just wide by Hannes Reismayr. Excitement in deed.

The Austrians pressed forward, leaving gaps at least which the elder Maldini decided to explore with fresher legs. He brought off first Vieri and then Del Piero to make way for Filippo Inzaghi and Roberto Baggio.

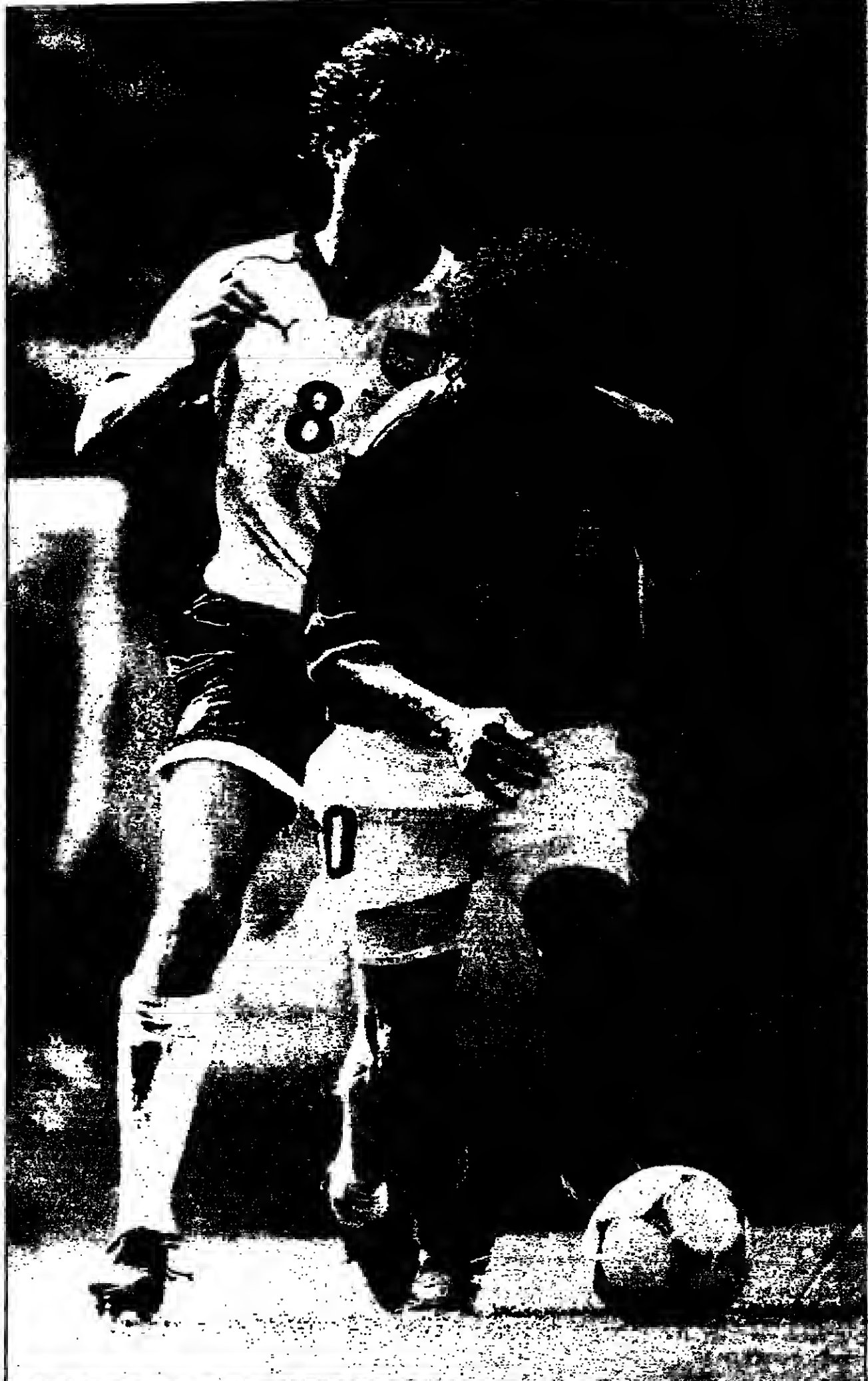
The game reached the dying minutes - time for an Austrian goal? It was, from a penalty by the substitute, Andreas Herzog, in injury time, but the Italians had already spoiled the script by scoring a second a minute earlier. Inzaghi escaped on the right and centred low to Roberto Baggio who tapped in.

Six minutes from time a spectator had tried to invade the pitch. It was difficult to see why he bothered, was he overcome by excitement? Or did he want his money back.

ITALY (3-3-3): Pagliuca (Internazionale); Nesta (Lazio), Cannavaro (Milan), Casanova (Parma); Moriero (Internazionale), Di Biagio (Parma), Di Biagio (Roma), Pessotto (Juventus), Maldini (Milan); Vieri (Atletico Madrid), Del Piero (Juventus), Sebastiani; Bergami (Internazionale) for Nesta; Inzaghi (Juventus) for Vieri; 60; R Baggio (Bologna) for Del Piero, 72.

AUSTRIA (3-5-1-1): Koller (Roma); Pfeiffer (Austria Vienna), Pfeifenberger (Borussia Dortmund), Schotter (Rapid Vienna); Reismayr (Sturm Graz), Kubbauer (Real Sociedad), Stalder (Sturm Graz), Pfeifenberger (Werder Bremen), Wied (Rapid Vienna); Vastic (Sturm Graz); Polster (Colonia); Sebastiani; Hasi (Sturm Graz) for Polster; 62; Schager (Linz ASK) for Kubbauer; 74; Herzog (Werder Bremen) for Pfeifenberger; 75.

Referee: P Durkin (England).



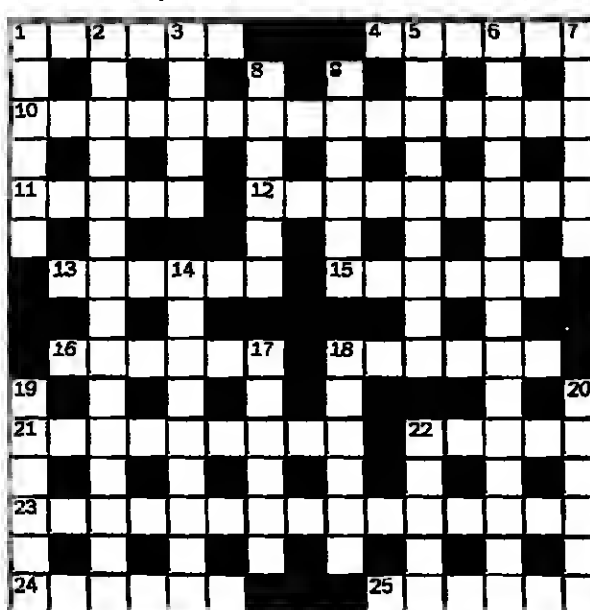
Italy's Alessandro Del Piero holds off the Austrian Heimo Pfeifenberger during yesterday's 2-1 win. Allsport

## THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3645, Wednesday 24 June

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution



DINOSAUR PURITY  
M D M U R N I  
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U U L R U  
SYM TUNING  
N A H S I G  
RAMSHACKLE DOOT  
G A L I U A U  
BELTIEF NIEPALEISE

## ACROSS

- 1 Slow progress of sailor, overdrawn? (6)
- 4 Pictures in rows (6)
- 10 No major works of theatre in these rural wards? (7,8)
- 11 Plan to take one experimental programme (5)
- 12 As captivating as Novello's nights on stage (10)
- 13 Burning a sign on a tree (6)
- 15 Suffering in ring-road traffic (6)
- 16 Horse-drawn carriages a long time on street (6)
- 18 Manly one run in wretched setting (6)
- 21 Hampers for the races (9)
- 22 See where this joint is found? (5)

## DOWN

- 23 Tennyson's sympathetic quality associated with coronets (15)
- 24 Report of a sex calendar to be considered (6)
- 25 Piano film instrumentalist (6)
- 1 City in ready method for achieving desired object (6)
- 2 Taking nothing from jug or bottle as ancient order? (5,10)
- 3 What may be served at table in pan? (5)
- 5 Champion retaining trophy is club's leading defender (3-6)

## Changed latterly, a notion of great wealth for its speculators? (8,7)

- 7 Big impact of a little soda-water (6)
- 8 Feeble male agree to differ? (6)
- 9 Murphy given big sum at job-centre (6)
- 14 Agonized, having flagged without a leader (9)
- 17 A means of shaking salt (6)
- 18 Pops in and settles after six? (6)
- 19 Reportedly, one who throws game that is already up (6)
- 20 Problem of comfort in Turkey-registered car? (6)
- 22 Gong struck in commemoration (5)

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## Croatia top of Romania's hit list

THE JUBILANT coach and players of Romania, still on a high the morning after beating England 2-1, said yesterday that they would prefer to meet the World Cup novices Croatia in the next round.

A draw in their last Group G game against Tunisia will guarantee Romania first place and a game against the second-placed side in Group H, currently Croatia. But Argentina could also finish runners-up, setting up a repeat of the thrilling second round game four years ago which Romania won 3-2.

"I prefer Croatia, but at this

level no games are easy, not for any team," Anghel Iordanescu, the Romanian coach, said at a champagne reception to mark the departure of the team from their secluded hotel in Albi, in south-western France.

Croatia, who are appearing in their first World Cup, have won both their matches so far. "At this level it doesn't matter who we meet, since both teams have very good players. Perhaps I would prefer Croatia, because they don't have too much experience," midfielder Gabriel Popescu said.

Veteran playmaker Gheorghe Hagi and striker Viorel

Moldovan - who combined for the first goal on Monday night - also said they would prefer to meet the Croats.

"Technically we can beat anyone. Our players have plenty of experience of winning at the highest levels in Europe," Hagi said, who insisted the ageing team had no problems with stamina. "I don't think there are any physical shortcomings. We can give our all for at least 75 minutes," he said.

The players and their normally dour coach, who have kept themselves at a great distance from the press, were in excellent spirits.

Even Iordanescu's face was creased in smiles as he thanked the mayor of Albi and the management of the team's luxury hotel, further evidence if needed of how important the win over England had been.

More than 50,000 Romanians chanted and danced in Bucharest streets early yesterday to celebrate the national team's win against England. Within minutes of the final whistle in Toulouse, vast crowds poured into University Square, the traditional site of large gatherings, blowing horns and setting off firecrackers.

For more than two hours

revellers streamed through side streets and into the capital's principal boulevard, with children and teenage girls hoisted on shoulders. "Romania! Romania!" chanted clusters of fans, who formed large circles to dance the traditional Romanian horn.

Large crowds poured through Bucharest four years ago when Romania reached the quarter-finals in the US. University Square was the site of clashes between troops and students in the December 1989 uprising. Tens of thousands gathered there last year to meet the US President, Bill Clinton.

TODAY: FRANCE V DENMARK (3.0) SOUTH AFRICA V SAUDI ARABIA (3.0).  
SPAIN V BULGARIA (3.0) NIGERIA V PARAGUAY (3.0)



MORSE

## Ronaldo's not all he's cracked up to be.

Ronaldo. He's all right.

Shearer, Sheringham, Owen. Admittedly, not all bad.

But if asked to say who's making the biggest contribution to World Cup 98, it's got to be Hewlett-Packard. No question. OK, let's be honest, they can't play football. Against HP even the Jamaican defence would have smiles on their faces.

The technology behind the scenes of the World Cup is on an awesome scale. And everything, from the largest UNIX server down to the printer

that prints the referee's pass, has been provided and run by Hewlett-Packard. Without it, the World Cup simply couldn't take place.

To find out the full facts about HP's World Cup, you can visit them at [www.hpworldcup.com](http://www.hpworldcup.com).

And to see their top performers in action, there is no better place than the Morse Enterprise Computing Centre. You will find us at [www.morse.co.uk](http://www.morse.co.uk) or you can call us on 0800 228888.

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## WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

**T**o most British sports fans Michael Jordan is just another famous American basketball player who, in his spare time, flogs Nike trainers. In fact, Michael Jordan is a one-man merchandising phenomenon, the greatest player in the game every sports superstar in the world wants to play and win brand promotion. He's been called "the human billboard", and some say that this handsome, 6ft 6in, 35-year-old black man is one of the best friends that white American capitalism ever had.

And if that sounds a little over the top, consider this. In 1993, Jordan retired from basketball to play baseball. On 9 March 1993, a rumour that Michael was about to return to basketball began to race around Wall Street. Suddenly the combined stock-market value of companies whose products were endorsed by Jordan rose by \$1bn. That's right: one man, one rumour, \$1bn.

Compare that to Ronaldo, the Brazilian striker, probably the world's best known footballer, who earns £10m a year from fees and sponsorship by Nike, Pirelli and others.

Even Desmond Lynam, currently enjoying cult status as Britain's favourite sports commentator, who is putting his face to five ad campaigns including Right Guard and Miracle Grow, is said to be earning a comparatively paltry £160,000.

What does that tell us about America's love of sport and the power of celebrity over millions of consumers? Has the land of the free become the home of the sucker who will snap up anything a superstar like Jordan is paid to sell?

Over the past decade Jordan's name has been used to sell shower curtains, aprons, travel mugs, tissue holders, flashlights, edible cake decorations, foam furniture, McDonald's, Quaker Oats, Nike trainers, cars - I could go on for ever. So let's just say that with the exception of vibrators and nipple rings, Jordan has promoted nearly every product the American public could possibly want.

These days Jordan is far more selective about what he will promote. He concentrates on a dozen or so products such as Nike, Sara Lee, Quaker Oats and his own Michael Jordan fragrance. He still managed to earn around \$70m last year.

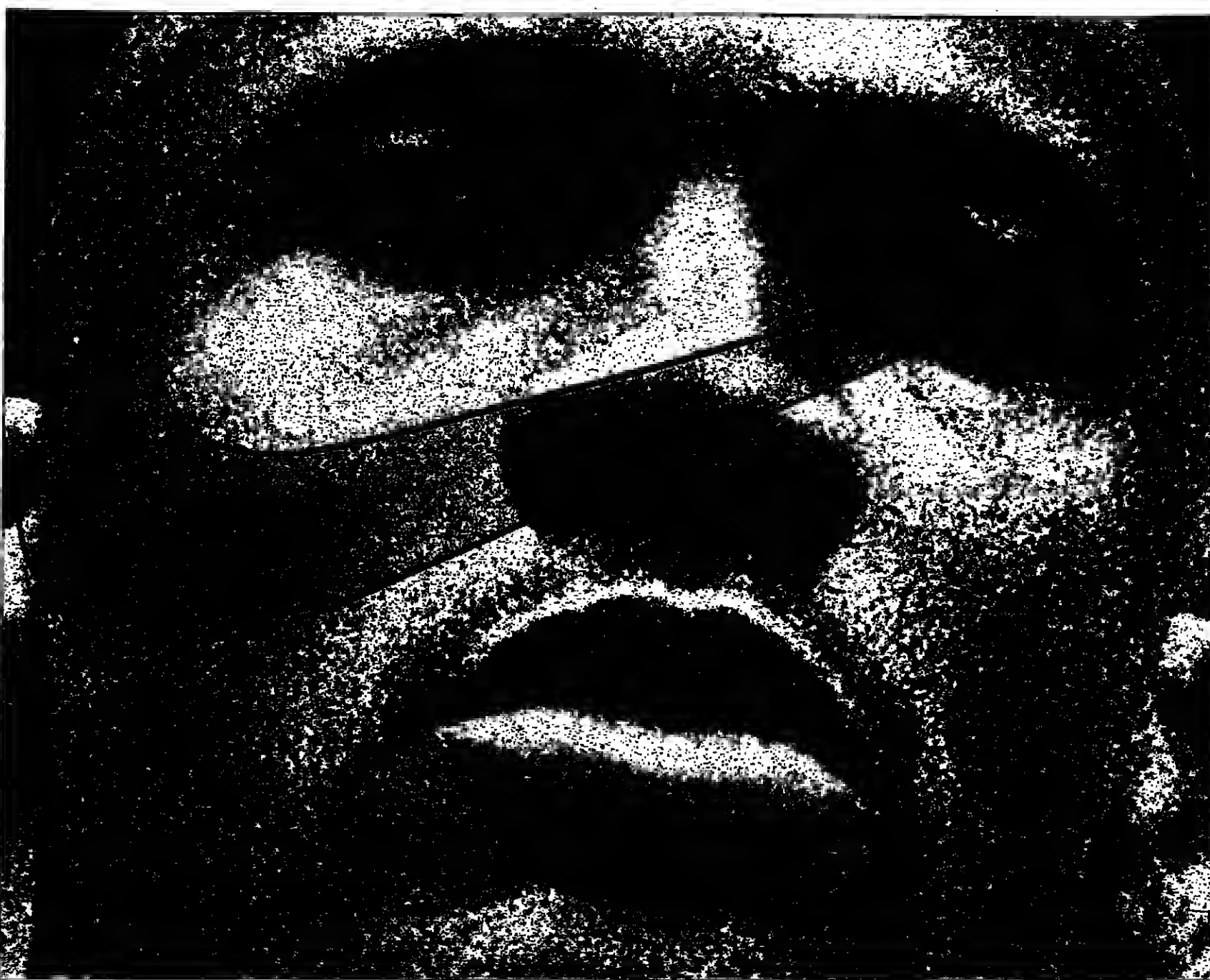
Jordan has the kind of celebrity kudos that can turn an entire company from a second-rate business to a major player in a chosen market. Early in his career, an ailing trainer company called Nike signed up Jordan for around \$2.5m to promote a new type of Michael-inspired trainer called the Air Jordan. By the end of the first year, revenues had reached \$130m. It was the most successful trainer launch in history. Today, Nike has 40 per cent of the American trainer market under its control - thanks to Michael.

So how do we explain the Jordan phenomenon? Why does Gatorade pay him \$18m to be associated with their drink? America is not exactly short of sporting superstars with merchandising muscle or smart sport agents who can cut multi-million-dollar deals every day of the week. Why is Michael the \$70m man?

For starters, you don't have to be a fan of his team, the Chicago Bulls, to concede that Jordan is a basketball genius. Never mind his past triumphs; today, at the age of 35 - which in basketball terms makes you an OAP - Jordan has been the highest scorer in the NBA this season. He's won every award going in the game. His sporting talent has taken him beyond basketball glory; Jordan has become, as *Time* magazine put it, "the greatest athlete in the history of American sports".

And in a country as socially and culturally fragmented as America, sport - unlike pop music or movies - is the one form of popular entertainment that transcends divisions of class, race or money. During the NBA Championships or the World Series in baseball, divided America becomes one nation under the spell of a sporting spectacle.

This gives a sporting celebrity such as Michael Jordan an obvious advantage



## Half man, half logo

Ronaldo (size 9, \$16m) may be the biggest thing to hit the World Cup, but he's not ready to step into the shoes of Michael Jordan (size 12, \$70m). At the grand old age of 35, the basketball star is still the king of the sports world, a human billboard, the face (and the feet) of Nike, a one-man merchandising machine the like of which the world has never seen

BY COSMO LANDESMAN

over a Pepsi-promoting pop star like Michael Jackson, who has a relatively limited fan base founded on the appeal of his type of music. Jordan's appeal goes right across the spectrum of sport. But this doesn't explain the appeal of Michael Jordan over other basketball superstars such as Magic Johnson and John Stockton.

Jordan has his own theory as to why he's been such a successful product promoter: "when I come into contact with people, I think they see me as a genuine person... I'm a people person."

And that's an important factor in explaining the Jordan phenomenon. By genuine he means real, authentic, devoid of pretension or that other great American sin - phoniness. Johnson has the in-built

sincerity that a brand promoter needs to sell to a mass audience.

Americans like their sporting heroes to have the common touch, to remain one of the people. Being genuine is what makes a sporting genius like Jordan seem like a regular guy that Joe Six-Pack can trust and relate to. Right from his early days with Nike, Jordan has been marketed as a man who understands the anxieties and aspirations of the common man. A 1977 Nike ad campaign featured Jordan failing to get the ball into the net during various games. "I've failed over and over again in my life. And that's why I succeed," says Michael.

For Americans, with their fear of failure, it was the ultimate feel-good message. It was as if Jordan were putting his arm

around the shoulder of every sad, disappointed American, saying, "Hey buddy, I know how you must feel. But you can do it, 'cause I did it too."

But why has Jordan remained the number one hero of black America for so long? Look at the alternatives, and what do you see? Michael Jackson fighting charges of molesting children; Mike Tyson convicted of rape; Magic Johnson infected with AIDS; OJ Simpson tried for murder; even Mr Clean himself, Bill Cosby, was involved in a paternity suit. Almost by default Johnson has had the black hero market to himself.

It may seem strange that the most visible face of white American capitalism is black. Some commentators claim that blackness makes Jordan an icon of cool.

They see him as the black man every white man would like to be - 6ft 6in of physical perfection, athletic power and sexual prowess. If Linford Christie has a lunch box, then Michael Jordan must be blessed with a two-ton lorry full of goodies. Or so some people like to think.

In fact, Jordan has managed to be such a marketing phenomenon because he is not seen by white America as someone who is black. That doesn't mean that he's tried to pass for white, it's just that being black for Jordan is no big deal. He's never been associated with black causes, or set himself up as a spokesman for the black community. Michael is a "people person" rather than a professional black man.

The man responsible for managing

Michael's image is David Falk. Right from day one Falk knew how to sell Jordan to the American people and the business community. "We felt that Michael represented something as all-American as apple pie. So the game plan was to get him involved with all-American companies such as McDonald's and Coke. Which we did." And it worked. Henry Louis Gates Jr, writing in *The New Yorker*, says Jordan "has become one of those things that constitute our identity as Americans".

So where is the English Michael Jordan? We have plenty of sporting superstars selling us such products as Lucozade (Linford Christie), Shredded Wheat (Ian Botham), Braun shavers (Alan Shearer) and Walkers Crisps (Gary Lineker). But compared to Jordan, even Shearer with his £1m contracts with McDonald's, Braun, Lucozade and Jaguar is earning peanuts.

Jordan provides the American psyche with something it needs as much as Big Macs and trainers: the idea of the individual winner. What Jordan does on the basketball court has a direct connection to something Americans have been buying for the last 200 years: the American dream of opportunity and success.

That's not exactly a hot item in this country. The individual winner has never been part of our national mythology. British sports is still very much about supporting a team, and not an individual star. When Alan Shearer scores a winning goal it's a victory for England, not our way of life.

An American baseball coach once said: "Show me a loser, and I'll show you a loser." The British, on the other hand, can see a loser such as Eddie Eagle and find him lovable. Consequently, to British eyes a winning machine such as Jordan is far less seductive. Of course the British want to win, but unlike Americans we do not worship at the feet of the winner.

But there are signs that the merchandising potential of the sporting celebrity is really just beginning to take off in this country. Mike Perry - who worked on the Nike campaign for Wieden and Kennedy - believes that the rest of the world is starting to go the way of America. "In the last 10 years there's been a massive growth in using sports to market brands and goods. Everyone, from steel manufacturers to ketchup companies, is using sports personalities as a means of raising awareness of their brands. America is just 10 years ahead of everybody else."

Already we can see that the place of sports in our culture is starting to change in the kind of way that makes the creation of a British Jordan more likely. Steve Martin, the PR manager of Adidas UK, says that, "sports stars in general have become more like rock stars; they are the pop stars of the Nineties. Sport has gone from the back pages to the front pages."

So is it only a matter of time before a British Michael Jordan bursts out to the scene? Perry is doubtful. "I can't see another Michael Jordan around in the future. He was something more than just a basketball player."

Martin is also sceptical about the arrival of another Jordan. For him the man to watch is Prince Naseem. "We feel that he is going to be very big. He made an incredible impact in the States with just one fight, but I doubt if he will ever be as big as Jordan."

People in British advertising will tell you that in some ways it's easier to use a sporting celebrity in America than over here. "The kids in this country are sophisticated and sceptical about ads. They are a difficult audience to reach. That isn't so true in America," says Martin.

While it is true that some campaigns - such as Gary Lineker's one for Walkers Crisps - have been highly successful, there's a great deal of doubt about the effectiveness of using celebrities to sell brands. Academic research suggests that there is not necessarily any link between stars and the success of the products they are selling. It seems that the British are not so enslaved to the culture of celebrity - not even the sporting kind - as the Americans. And that is surely a victory for everyone who wants sporting heroes without all the brand-promoting hype.

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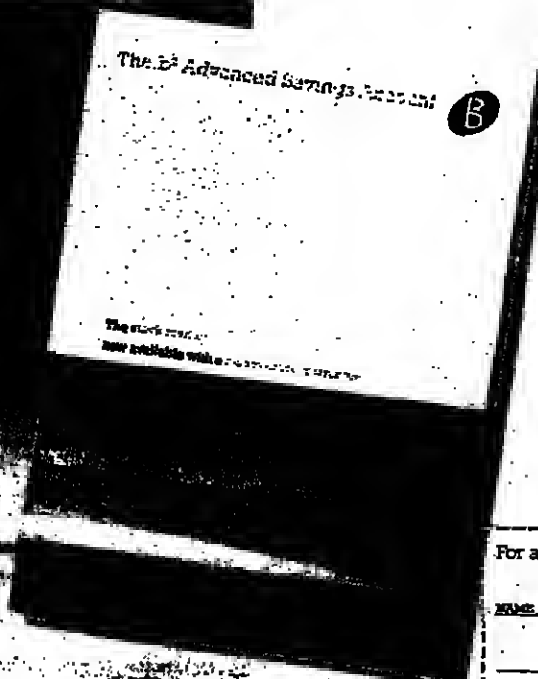
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## 2/COMMENT AND LETTERS

### Read the Royal mail

IT HAS been some time now since I heard from my old friend Talbot Church, the former court correspondent whose heart-warming exposed once earned him the sobriquet "The Man the Royals Trust" but who fell from grace following the publication of his royal wedding paperback, *101 Things You Didn't Know about the Royal Lovebirds*.

Now he's back, bearing exciting news for historians of the future. It appears that, during a routine trawl through the dustbins at Clarence House in 1993, Talbot came across a bin-liner full of old letters. They were in a poor state - some of the papers were torn, others were charred by cigarette burns - but, over the subsequent years, he has managed to piece them together into some kind of order.



#### TERENCE BLACKER

brings you the Queen Mum's private letters

Only this weekend has the significance of his discovery become apparent. These papers are none other than the remains of the Queen Mother's private correspondence which, in an excess of tidiness, Princess Margaret is reported to have thrown away. As a teaser for interested publishers, Talbot has agreed to make available a few incomplete fragments of letters from the Queen Mother to her beloved second daughter.

Darling Margaret, What a sweet little man your Townsend is. I did like the way he bowed to me - you can tell a lot about a man from the way he bows. What exactly is a group captain. I never know. Somewhere between a captain and a major, I suppose. When can I -

Dear Margaret, No, sorry, not on. Foot well and truly down. I could just about accept Elizabeth marrying a naval officer but RAF - he'll probably start wearing one of those ghastly moustaches and say things like "Tickyboo" and "Down the hatch". We'll tell everyone it's because he's a divorced but you and I will know that it was far more serious than -

cannot believe I lost the Grand National all because of that hopeless little man Dick Francis. Devon Loch was miles clear when Francis decided to wave to someone on the rails - naturally, my darling DL took fright and did the splits. Francis came in claiming that the horse was jumping over a shadow! Honestly, that man lives in a world of his own - can't think what's going to become of him. Have you heard Tommy Steele's latest, "Little White Bull"? It did make me laugh. Your loving Mama.

Darling, I know you like to encourage the staff but I do wonder whether it's wise taking your gardener Roddy to Mustique - even if, as you say, you are very partial to his hardy perennials. Another thing you can help me with. I read somewhere that one of your set out there, a man called John Bindon, has a party piece which involves "balancing a pint of lager on his toadger". This confused me - what exactly is "lager"? Just met Anne's intended, a man called Feggy. Nice enough, but he made even me feel intelligent, which I can't believe is a good -

fun seeing the younger generation "letting off steam" on *It's a Royal Knockout*. Thank goodness that charming Sarah Ferguson has joined the firm - such a breath of fresh air. I was wondering whether I should get in touch with that sweet little man Des O'Connor and suggest I appear on his TV show. I've been working on "Roll Out the Barrel", which always goes down terribly well with the cockneys. What do you -

come up with a rather brilliant labour-saving idea. We hire a "lookalike" and send her out on birthdays etc pretending to be me, looking frail and adorable and waving at the cockneys. Saves an awful lot of -

Dear Margaret, I can't tell you what fun I've been having. A rather gassy American girl called Kitty Kelley has been coming round for a good old gossip. We play this American game called "Oprah" - she tells me something rather saucy about her family, which I try and top with stories from the firm. I win every time! Talking of Americans, what is this ER people are talking about? Is it my story? I do wish I could make the video machine -



A cannonball possibly originating from Edinburgh Castle found during the Scottish National Trust's renovations of its new HQ in Charlotte Square

Tom Paiton

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

### Persecuted gays

Sir: Martin Luther King looked forward to the day when his children would be judged not by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character. I look forward to the day when gay and lesbian youngsters are judged not by their sexual orientation but by their character and the quality of their relationships. The bishops in the House of Lords who will oppose the equal age of consent at 16 argue that it would give "the wrong message" to society ("Peers rally to stop gay sex Bill", 22 June). What message are they sending: that prejudice and discrimination is right; that to be gay is to be less than other people? All of us, men and women, black and white, gay and heterosexual are all children of God and of infinite value to him. Notions of heterosexual supremacy are no more Christian than notions of white supremacy.

The bishops must accept responsibility for the consequences of their action. What impact will their statement have on those thousands of adolescents faced with growing awareness that their deepest feelings are towards their own sex? Recognition of beauty in others and the desire to love is the greatest gift of God. Yet the bishops are sending the "message" to our gay and lesbian children that these feelings are sinful and wicked.

Their statement will reinforce the guilt and self-hatred felt by many gay and lesbian adolescents and give them the message that the church, and therefore God, rejects them. Children who are identified or labelled as lesbian or gay in schools often face appalling bullying. The "message" sent by the bishops is support for the attitudes that inform this persecution.

### Tories and Ulster

Sir: Thank you for your unequivocal leading article on the Northern Ireland peace process (22 June). It is well past time that someone drew attention to the seriously flawed nature of William Hague's stand on this vital issue.

The tearing up of the cross-party accord is the least of my worries, although it must be remembered that the Labour opposition adhered to bipartisanship for eighteen years, through the most severe of trials and in spite of damaging criticism from its own constituency. What concerns me is the damage which Mr Hague and his party are capable of doing to a fragile and delicately balanced peace process to which, unless I have missed something, he is offering no constructive alternative.

I was born in Northern Ireland and lived there from 1952 until 1995. For the last 21 years of that time, I served in the emergency services and have vivid memories of the pain and horror wrought by the "troubles". I have, as I suspect do most of the 71 per cent who supported the Good Friday agreement in the referendum, great reservations about the detail of it. I

do not welcome the release of the people who committed the atrocities which I and my colleagues had the misfortune to be required to clean up.

Equally, however, I do not have an alternative to offer, and I am prepared to place my trust in Tony Blair, as I would have in John Major. Both are decent men who have given Northern Ireland a higher priority than did any of their predecessors.

The only real alternative is the Maudling strategy of maintaining "an acceptable level of violence". Mr Hague and his colleagues do not have the right to inflict this on the people of the United Kingdom again. If they have a reasoned alternative, they should let us hear it immediately. If they do not, they should maintain a dignified silence.

ALAN MURRAY  
Dorking,  
Surrey

### Hope in jail

Sir: Andreas Whitlam Smith's article "Let us show prisoners how to be human beings" (23 June) was both insulting and demoralising to the thousands of prison officers who provide a humane and supportive environment for inmates. As someone who is privileged to deal with both staff and inmates in my capacity as a member of the prison watchdog body, the board of visitors, I found it infuriating.

Yes, the Prison Service has its rogues and yes, not every officer always treats every inmate with humanity, but to headline an article in such a way is to imply first that prisoners, by definition, are not human beings and second that no effort is being made by anyone to rehabilitate inmates.

On the contrary, daily, people are being changed for the better by their experience "inside". There is a long way still to go, but give credit where it is due. A recent report by HM Inspector of Prisons was justifiably glowing in its praise of the excellent rapport between staff and inmates at HMP Wakefield and the quality of both workshops and education. I don't believe this was an isolated case.

Get out and about a bit more, Mr Whitlam Smith. Contact your local board of visitors and talk to them. Better still, apply to join. Then you can practise what you preach.

JEAN REID  
Vice Chairman  
Board of Visitors  
HM Prison Wakefield  
Northamptonshire

### Legal fat cats

Sir: Your report that barristers "ridicule" the idea that they should earn less than £200,000 a year from legal aid work ("High fees put fat cat lawyers in the dock", 18 June). You describe a process of setting and "uplifting" fees in the awareness that a review body is likely to halve the figure - still leaving huge sums of money to be found for a system which is "running out of control" ("QCs claim astonishing legal aid fees", 19 June).

May I suggest an alternative

model? Clergy of the Church of England receive an allowance (stipend) designed to enable us to live "neither in poverty nor riches", currently about £14,000 a year plus a tied house and good pension provision. Other income, from chaplaincies, teaching or letting a room in the house, is deducted from the stipend. We are protected from inflation but do not receive year-on-year increases.

We usually take one day off each week; the rest of our time is at the disposal of the church. We are expected to maintain a portfolio of theological, liturgical, educational, pastoral and management skills which are freely available to all parishioners.

My wife and I have lived this life for thirty years. There can be no finer or more satisfying occupation. We have raised and educated our two children without sending my wife out to work.

The tied house would not be appropriate for barristers, so let us suggest a stipend of, say £40,000, plus all proper expenses, clerical staff and pension provision. The model could be emulated for all professions whose avowed purpose is the service of our fellow man, for his well-being, healing, justice and peace.

The prophet laid down the principle long ago: "What is required of you, O man, but to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God?"

The Rev ROGER WREED  
Wincanton, Somerset

### The best jobs

Sir: Here we go again! Football opens the old can of prejudice and stereotypes. Inure Karacs juxtaposes the ugly, drunken but harmless English louts with their allegedly more serious and brutal counterparts from Germany, the well-organised youths who look like neo-Nazis and are supposed to be "fascinated with violence" ("More than mere yobs", 23 June).

Isn't it rather sad that we should find solace in the fact that hooliganism is not just a British disease. Let us take a unanimous stance in condemning all football violence, no matter what nationality is involved, rather than indulge in this nationalistic one-upmanship of hooliganism.

Dr R TENBERG  
Little Shelford,  
Cambridgeshire

Sir: Your article on French law relating to English football supporters (Law, 19 June) misses a central point. In France, most of those accused of crimes are imprisoned while an investigating magistrate considers whether they should be charged. This can go on for years and applies to both "white-collar" and to other offences. Recently, the head of the railways, the SNCF, was put in prison pending fraud charges and a British lorry driver was held for two years on suspicion of drug trafficking before being released. This makes provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act look mild.

When the eyes of the world are

upon them, as here and in respect of the paparazzi involved in the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, the French resort to the "fast-track" approach to get the people to the point of being charged or exonerated very quickly. Their system, however, is not equipped to cope with this; hence the difficulties described in the article.

JOSIE EDWARDS  
London N10

### Self-help in Africa

Sir: Whilst Paul Valley was right to point out (ISM, 20 June) that the Tonga people have received little support from the Zambian government since the Kariba dam was built forty years ago, he gives the impression that there is no positive work being done in the area.

Despite the harsh climate, no electricity and a lack of roads, there are some success stories, as supporters of Harvest Help know. For 13 years Harvest Help has supported development projects with many communities on the shores of Lake Kariba. Farmers have introduced new crops, small-scale irrigation and improved farming methods to boost food production. A mobile health clinic visits communities along the lakeshore and a rural health centre was opened last year in Mungama, both of which are reducing the number of child deaths. Over three thousand children have benefited from primary education in an area previously without schools.

All these initiatives have received some support from the Zambian government, but the driving force behind the work is the Tonga people themselves.

ANDREW JOWETT  
Director  
Harvest Help  
Telford,  
Shropshire

### Birmingham link

Sir: The Birmingham Northern Relief Road (BNRR) will not be privately owned ("Protesters stock up for Birmingham road war", 9 June). It will be owned by the Government and be part of the national highway network, but for a period of 50 years it will be operated by Midland Expressway with the right to collect tolls from vehicles using it.

You report claims from opponents of the BNRR about the traffic effects of the road. BNRR will not be a complete solution for the West Midlands' severe transport problems, but there is no doubt it will have a relieving effect on the heavily congested trunk-road network in the region. It will also achieve its primary aim of providing a strategic through-route between the North-west and the South-east which avoids the dreadful conditions on the M6 in Birmingham.

You refer to a "secret" contract for construction of the road. There is a concession agreement, signed in 1992 between Midland Expressway and the Secretary of State. It is not "secret", but as with all commercial agreements, commercial confidentiality attaches to it. It does

not, incidentally, contain any "illegal penalty clauses".

The piece makes no mention of the 16-month public inquiry, held in 1994 and 1995, which was the longest ever into a road scheme and which concluded, after exhaustive examination of every aspect of the BNRR, that the road was needed.

TOM SMITH  
Managing Director  
Midland Expressway Ltd  
London W2

### Fairy stories

Sir: K Porteous Wood (Letters, 20 June) brings a breath of fresh air to your paper with his description of exorcists as "deluded men with crosses and holy water". On another page Margaret Atkins (Faith and Reason) writes: "The Bible begins with the creation of the heavens and the earth, and God sees that each thing is good".

It is surprising that there are people who still believe that nonsense. There are no heavens or hells, demons, angels, ghosts, eternal torture, gods, fairies or Father Christmas. There is no evidence for the existence of any of these fantasies, and it is time the human race grew out of its infantile gullibility and came to terms with reality.

MAURICE HILL  
Javea, Alicante,  
Spain

### IN BRIEF

Sir: Henry Blotfeld has become gratuitously self-righteous in his assessment of the "disent" shown by Test cricketers at incorrect umpiring decisions ("Players told to respect umpire", 23 June). It is an understandable human response to display disappointment and frustration in such circumstances. An apology from Ramprakash to the umpire should have been sufficient.

Mr Blotfeld seems to place greater importance on impeccable behaviour than the will to win. I would rather see England win the Test series, even if that involves the occasional use of a swear-word.

PETER MORRIS  
London WC2

Sir: Jack O'Sullivan, in his report on the sad loss of the fishing boat, *Silvery Sea*, describes her catch as 500 tons of sand eels. I have never seen sand eels for sale in a fishmonger's, so what do the Danes use them for? I thought they were the main diet of puffins and terns. Sea birds have a tough enough time with oil spills already without us taking their food.

G L BOLT  
Kings Lynn,  
Norfolk

Sir: You have published a letter (22 June) from a J M Bradford from Leeds, about defunct counties and referring to birthright; have you ever published a letter from a Mr/Ms Leeds who hailed from Bradford?

ROBERT COLOVER  
London SW16

## THE REVIEW DAY BY DAY

### MONDAY REVIEW

As well as our regular columnists, features and expanded comment pages, Network, our information technology section, moves to Monday.

### TUESDAY REVIEW

An improved media section, with appointments, moves to Tuesday. Visual arts and more health pages are also Tuesday regulars

### WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Fashion, midweek money pages, in addition to finance and secretarial sections (previously City+) will stay on Wednesday

### THURSDAY REVIEW

Our education section will appear as a separate tabloid section. Improved and expanded film pages now move to Thursday

### FRIDAY REVIEW

The architecture and science pages now move to Friday. In addition, we will have a new law section and our music pages

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## A simple test: will our trains start to run on time?

IT MAY not be the expected route, but the arranged marriage between Richard Branson's Virgin Trains and Brian Souter's Stagecoach bus company provides the first opportunity since privatisation for the integrated transport network so beloved of transport experts. Scrapping plans for a £250m flotation, Mr Branson has instead secured from Stagecoach a £138 million share purchase and an extra £20 million to pay off debts - amounting to 49 per cent of Virgin Trains. The marriage of the flamboyant Mr Branson and the hard-edged Mr Souter is one of circumstance, and it is impossible at this stage to tell whether it is made in heaven or hell.

Mr Branson has spoken of the "synergistic benefits" of the arrangement. If plans to integrate Stagecoach's buses in the Midlands, North-west and Scotland with Virgin's trains live up to the two companies' hype then it will be a good thing. But there are serious doubts - based on past performance - about their ability to deliver what they promise.

When the last government privatised the railways it argued that only the private sector could follow Mussolini in making the trains run on time. More than that, a nationalised British Rail would always be low on any list of public spending priorities, however appalling its performance and however obvious its need for greater investment. Money on the scale needed could come only from the private sector. Using a subsidy to attract buyers was one thing; but after a few years, any subsidy would be whittled away and converted into a payment into the Treasury. Britain would have a modern, efficient, well resourced and private railway system.

It is still too soon to tell whether this is just a free marketer's fantasy, or a credible way to run a transport system. Privatisation certainly has its more absurd side, such as rival companies operating on the same line which go out of their way not to co-operate on schedules or ticketing. And Virgin Trains has been one of the poorest performers. A year ago only 78 per cent of its trains were punctual (although that has now improved to 90 per cent). Everyone has their own privatisation horror story. But in truth many of these are simply rail horror stories, which might have been different but would not have been better under a state-run railway.

Virgin Rail's franchises cover the vital west coast main line between London and Scotland and the cross-country route between Penzance and Aberdeen. Earlier this month it won regulatory approval for a £2.1bn



investment on the west coast line and it is trying to secure £1bn to run "tilting trains" which should cut the London Glasgow journey time from four hours 54 minutes to three hours 49 minutes. The subsidy of £224.4m which Virgin rail receives today has to be turned into a payment to the Treasury of £230.3m by the time the franchise runs out in the year 2012 - a pretty onerous task, and one that is dependent on decent performance.

If Virgin Trains fail to deliver, then it will not just be Mr Branson and Mr Souter who are in trouble. The Government, even if it wanted to, does not have the money for a major rescue of the railways - let alone for renationalisation. The rail franchising director, John

O'Brien, is expected to insist on additional investment and passenger facilities before approving the merger, and that is all to the good.

The success of privatisation will be judged pretty straightforwardly. Are there enough trains? Do they run on time? Are they comfortable? Are they competitive? A positive answer to all of these questions is a prerequisite to any of the Deputy Prime Minister's plans for reducing car traffic. The Labour Party opposed privatisation but is now stuck with it, so when Mr Prescott publishes his transport White Paper next month he will be as anxious as any Conservative for the experiment to succeed.

## Shameful abuse of the mentally ill

THE INDEPENDENT inquiry into sexual and physical abuse at the Longcare home in Buckinghamshire has been a long time in coming. The Independent first exposed the catalogue of crimes that Gordon Rowe and his colleagues subjected the helpless residents of his supposed care home to some four years ago, and it is a disgrace that we have had to wait until now for an inquiry. Buckinghamshire County Council deserves no credit for its eventual appearance. If it was not for the orders of Paul Boateng, the health minister, we would still be waiting. Their four year attempt to stop an inquiry was shameful.

The tragedy of this case is that it should never have happened. These were not secret crimes. Over ten years' evidence existed, showing that something was amiss. The council were repeatedly warned. But they did nothing. Although we seem to be confronted with such cases all the time, this case was made worse by the fact that the victims were not children but mentally handicapped adults. As a result of the plethora of child abuse cases, there are now reasonably firm procedures in place. When a case falls through the net, it is usually because of a failure to implement properly these procedures. The inquiry into Longcare shows that nothing like as much rigour is attached to the care of the mentally handicapped.

Under the Mental Health Act as it stands, the maximum sentence for neglect is two years. The inquiry recommends that a new ten year maximum sentence for harming and exploiting the mentally handicapped is introduced. At the very least, this should serve as a marker that such abuse should never happen. In addition, we need urgently to implement a much tighter system of registration and inspection. Without it, we will almost certainly see the emergence of more Gordon Rows.

## A sad club

POOR RACHEL Anderson. Britain's only licensed football players' agent has twice been refused entry to the Professional Footballers Association's men-only awards dinner and she has now had her case raised in the House of Lords. Naturally, if she wants to go we support her. But why on earth would any sane woman want to spend an evening with a bunch of drunken, selfish lechers? Perhaps Ms Anderson should invert Groucho Marx's maxim and refuse to be a member of a club that won't have her.

# The truth about our spin doctors - they're really not much good

THE VISIT of Alastair Campbell to be quizzed by a Parliamentary committee will most probably get more column inches than any other event of the week, including even cutting the age of consent for gay men. Parliament was awash with speculation about how the mighty Alastair would perform. MPs seemed as excited and impressed as if we were a remote medieval monastery being visited by the Vatican's Cardinal secretary of state, the real power behind the throne of holy mother church.

Spin doctoring is not new however. It is merely the new name for a very old art. Anybody who has read of how Joe Kennedy intimidated and bribed journalists and TV companies into showing his sons in the best possible light will recognise all the old tricks in their modern form.

Of course, not many of today's spin doctors have the sort of money that allowed Joe Kennedy to drive around Washington in November 1958 buying up every available copy of Time magazine merely because the front cover displayed Hubert Humphrey, at that time John Kennedy's main rival for the Democratic nomination.

What seems to have created a rather unpleasant atmosphere around the spin doctors is that nowadays most of their efforts seem to be devoted to rubbishising members of their own party. Recently we have seen the systematic off-the-record rubbishising of David Clark and Chris Smith in the hope that this will open the way for a few vacancies in the Cabinet.

Even more cynical has been the way in which potential Labour candidates for mayor have been built up

only to be rubbishised when they fail to overtake me in the polls. Thus in the space of just a few weeks we are first told that Glenda Jackson will be a formidable candidate only to discover that she is "too wooden".

This week the same fate befell Trevor Phillips. Having been given the high-profile role of organising the Yes campaign in the London referendum, the same spin doctors and back room "experts" who advised him throughout have been the very people briefing the press about the education of his children in a private school.

Nor is it only the minor players on the Labour stage who get treated this way. No one is ever likely to forget Number 10's rubbishising of Gordon Brown as "psychologically flawed" following the publication of his authorised biography.

Although spin doctors are very good at spinning about their own omnipotence, when we examine the record, they're actually not much good. On the morning following the rebellion of 47 Labour MPs against the cut in single-parent child benefit, I turned on the radio to hear on the lead item on the Today programme that I was to be suspended from the Labour Party for leading the rebellion. As the rebellion had been very ably led by Audrey Wise and Lynne Jones, and I had only had a walk-on role, I put this down to a touch of sexism.

Given that I had spoken to the Labour Chief Whip the night before and had been impressed by his passionate belief that we had to put the row behind us and that he would do all he could do to unite the party, I couldn't



KEN LIVINGSTONE

The need to be 'on-message' in all circumstances has made Prime Minister's Questions a sick joke

believe that I was headed for the chop. I thought I had better check to be sure, so I cancelled my early morning meeting and went straight into the Whips Office where I was told not to worry - the story had come from David Hill the spin doctor in Number 10 who seemed to be trying to create the impression that we were about to get the sack from our government. No one from Number 10 had checked with the whips about whether they planned to take action, but because David Hill was one of the most senior spin doctors it was inevitable that the story would lead BBC news bulletins.

The problem with the power of the spin doctors is that allied with the ambition of Labour MPs for office, we end up with the suppression of open public debate. The need to be "on-message" and supportive in all circumstances makes Question Time

a rather sick joke. This is being reinforced every time some ambitious wannabe trots out garbage which is not only inaccurate but something they themselves clearly don't believe in. The best example recently was the soon-to-be Lord Toby Harris's explanation that the low turnout in the referendum on the London mayor was caused by voters being disturbed about speculation of who would be the candidate!

Before the General Election, Labour's most damaging row was over Harriet Harman's choice of school for one of her children. Labour spin doctors were warned of this story in the run-up to Christmas but took no action until the issue blew up in their face in the New Year, when parliament was in full session.

Any cynical spin doctor worth their pay would have had the good sense to give the story to the paper two days before Christmas knowing that it is almost impossible to revive a story after the Christmas break when parliament isn't sitting.

The dramatic and much more damaging row over whether or not we were going to join a monetary union when it starts in 1999 showed the problems of having too many spin doctors spinning for different masters.

It is not, of course, just politicians who get bullied by the spin doctors. Their main target is journalists. Screaming obscenities at journalists and withholding stories from them as a form of punishment has slowly had its effect. I am now surprised by how many journalists are prepared to reveal their confidential sources.

To curb the spin doctors, editors

and producers could learn from an incident back in 1985. Bernie Grant, then leader of Haringey Council, and myself were invited by the BBC TV South East News with the Metropolitan Commissioner of Police, Sir Kenneth Newman. We were both delighted as Sir Kenneth had refused ever to be held publicly accountable for his policies.

When Sir Kenneth arrived, his press officer was appalled to realise that Sir Kenneth was not to be interviewed on his own and even worse would be questioned by Bernie and I. The press officer furiously rounded on the BBC producer: "Sir Kenneth is not appearing with those shifts". The BBC producer stood his ground and pointed out that we were elected representatives of Londoners and if Sir Kenneth wasn't prepared to appear, his chair would be left empty and the presenter would announce why.

The time has come for editors and producers to form a cartel to resist the spin doctors. They need to agree together to reduce the amount of anonymous briefing they are prepared to report and insist that in future these stories must be attributable.

They should also agree that they will not allow politicians or spin doctors to tell the nature of questions in advance of interview or influence the choice of interviewer. Sadly, given the closeness of New Labour to so many figures in the media such a cartel is going to remain my private fantasy. The only other way to curtail the problem is if Tony Blair decides he wants to. He could start being extremely rude to all the brown-nosers at Question Time.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I think when his emotions and his intellect are harmonised then you'll see the entire process starting to click"  
Gerry Adams on David Trimble

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"In a mad world only the mad are sane"  
Akira Kurosawa, Japanese filmmaker

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something  
got under  
your skin  
today?

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Die Welt, Germany  
Hooligans cannot be rehabilitated because they will never learn. That's nothing new. Hooligans are neither typically German nor British. They are incorrigible. It is remarkable how few European-wide steps were taken to prevent this; it almost seems as if there were no European Union.

LEst Republicain, France  
We should recognise once and for all that this detestable behaviour has become indissoluble from that leather ball. Those who despise the

sport can only conclude that it acts as a battleground for the faithless, lawless brutes who respect nothing, not even the lives of others.

Bild Zeitung, Germany  
A French policeman lies in a coma, beaten up in the most brutal manner by German rioters. I am ashamed of these inexcusable outrages. It makes me furious how some violent criminals drag the image of Germans abroad through the mud. This cancer of the modern football world must be removed.

## MONITOR

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD  
The violence in Lens involving German football fans

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung  
The violence committed by German rioters is a reminder that this kind of modern vandalism is not confined to England. Chancellor Kohl was right to speak of a "dis-

grace to our country". Nevertheless, grand statements only underline how helpless we feel towards this.

Le Monde, France  
This time it's different, much worse - a blood stain now de-

files this World Cup. A policeman has been left for dead, showered with blows from iron bars wielded by a commando of German hooligans. Whether English or German, football doesn't excite them; it merely shelters them with guilty complacency.

Süddeutsche Zeitung  
The Hitler salute, often divorced from its political connotations, is guaranteed to provoke riots quickly, and is being used for that effect. German hooligans have laid claim to a means of provocation available only to Ger-

mans - and immediately understandable everywhere. Intelligence experts say they have no indication of neo-Nazi infiltration of the hooligan scene...but it is time to stop assuming that concerted far-right violence represents no political danger.

L'Equipe, France  
The World Cup will overcome. Hundreds of thousands of people will still be impassioned by football and their cheers will echo around the stadiums while the forces of law and order stand at the ready.



## PANDORA

IT SEEMED almost that Peter Temple-Morris's final break from the Conservative Party was foreseen by the organisers of the Three Counties Show in Malvern last week. The Leominster MP had been told that he was to be seated at Table 1 with the President of the Three Counties Agricultural Society. However, Temple-Morris was just about to sit down when he was led away by the event director to Table 14. Perhaps the move was just as well, as William Hague was sitting on Table 3. All parties have denied that the Hague camp was instrumental in this. Had they been in closer proximity, Temple-Morris said, "He would have nodded to me and I would have nodded to him". Surely that would depend on whether Hague had got wind of the MP's impending defection.

other staple food of laddism, the kebab, was munched on thoughtfully as "Anarchy in the UK" played over the sound system.

AT THE same time, England's finest demonstrated their "martial spirit" in Toulouse after their team's defeat to Romania. Unfortunately, MP Alan Clark, at the centre of controversy over the fans' behaviour, has no plans as yet to publish any more books on his pet subject, military history. "I don't know what his next project might be," said his office. Alan may be missing a trick here - how about *The Charge of the Light Brigade*?

NEW YORK'S mayor Rudy Giuliani held a party at his home last week to celebrate Israel's 50th Anniversary. Mort Zuckerman, owner of the *New York Daily News* lavished Giuliani with praise at the event saying "it is not unusual that the mayor of New York has opened up his home; he has long been a great supporter of the state of Israel". He added that Giuliani was "a person who has shown up at absolutely every occasion on behalf of the state of Israel. He lends his very powerful voice in the cause of... backing Israel's right to exist". Praise indeed. Perhaps this was all a reaction (as rival the *New York Post* gleefully points out) to a *Daily News* cartoon published the day before. The cartoon mocked City Hall's plan for an emergency command centre, depicting Giuliani as Adolf Hitler, sitting in a bunker with an aide saying "Uh, Rudy, there's an Eva Braun to see you." Oops.

KEITH ALLEN, comedian and actor, was a very unhappy man last night. England's dismal failure against Romania did not go down well at an event loosely designed to promote the Canal Building development in Islington. The co-creator of the World Cup anthem "Vindaloo" bravely gave an encore after England's defeat. Despite the show of strength Allen and Blur's Damon Albarn (pictured) were visibly gutted. Not the best time to ask Allen about the artistic integrity of this morose tune? No. "It's not a realising hooligan song, it's a football song. The reason that the right hijacked Jerusalem is that it's emotive. This is a people's song," Allen gently pointed out. "Vindaloo" and "Jerusalem": odd comparison. No curry was served, but that



## Will The Sun stop shining on Page 3?



ANNE  
McELVOY  
Page 3 is the Sun's  
Clause 4. Modernisers  
want to ditch it, to the  
fury of traditionalists

WHERE HAS she gone, the cynosure of Sun readers' eyes who sparked Clare Short's campaign for a law to cover her up and a thousand student union protest motions?

There are grounds for concern about the safety of the Page 3 girl. Her appearance in the past few weeks has been suspiciously sporadic. Yesterday, she was supplanted with a charming photograph of a World Cup supporter holding up an England flag emblazoned with the words: "Darling - I got a ticket! See U in three weeks."

Here is a refreshingly different portrayal of the heterosexual relationship than a picture of Raunhy Roseanne wearing a back-to-front swimsuit, oiled nipples and an expression of boundless goodwill. It would bring a smile to the face of all readers, not just a leer to the lips of the more predictable male.

Page 3 is becoming *The Sun's* Clause IV. Modernisers inside the paper want to ditch it on the grounds that it looks outdated and puts off female readers. Traditionalists believe that it represents the core identity of the paper and that to ditch it would accelerate, not

stem, the paper's circulation woes. There is something fascinating about the decline of a national icon which has inspired loyalty and outrage for so long in equally fervent measure. When I embarked on exhaustive research about the reasons for Page 3's demotion (this column spares itself no exertion), *The Sun's* response was strangely anxious. David Yelland, the new Ed-

itor, issued the following on-the-record quote from New York, specially for sojourning *Independent* readers: "There are a lot of surprises in store at *The Sun*. It's a great read and it's only 28 pence."

This reminds me of the kind of communiqué they used to issue after Eastern Bloc politburos had changed course but were damned if they were going to admit it. The paper has already run a defensive leading article: "Yes folks, the breast is yet to come." Tabloidologists promptly concluded that a mammary-war was raging inside the paper.

Why should the people who steer the destiny of Britain's top-selling daily paper be so unsure about the future of their prize asset?

The readiness to review Page 3 gives us reason to be cheerful about two things. The first is the embrace beyond the highly educated middle classes of the best of feminist attitudes - the idea that women should be in charge of the course of their own lives rather than reflecting the desires and expectations of men. They are, apparently, weary of endless advice on How To

Please Your Man in Bed, the natural pendant to Get a Load of These. The feminist cry: "What about me?" - exploited the platform provided by their tabloid exploiters to pursue their own ambitions. Without warning, they upped and walked off the page, out of newspaper aspic.

I have a shrewd idea that *The Sun's* market research is telling it that fewer teenage girls aspire to become topless models than 10 years ago. It no longer inspires the wannabes who would rather be Spice Girls than Page 3 girls. Spice Girls go round the world, sack their managers, have rows. They are frenetically active, not passive recipients of the stares of others.

Girl power is a tightly circumscribed version of female emancipation, but it is not without force. It is through popular culture that small girls first get to see women outside the roles of mother or teacher. If silly, static, sexist Page 3 disappears from the country's breakfast tables, so much the better. Women buyers find her an irritation; male ones are bored by her. She is yesterday's girl, not today's woman.

That used to be enough for the aspirants who queued for a chance to seduce the lens. But feminism

## At last, Mr Trimble has a Big Idea to sell to Ulster



DAVID  
McKITTRICK  
This course is fraught  
with dangers - Unionism  
is confused and his own  
party is a shambles

MALONE HOUSE, where on Monday David Trimble depicted a new Unionism based on partnership and mutual respect, commands a view over many County Down drumlins, the little hills that give the countryside its basket-of-eggs appearance.

Eestyn Evans, an academic with a rare gift for blending geography and history, once related those fertile hills to the politics of the Protestants who farmed them. "I suspect that people living in such closed-in lowlands with restricted horizons tend to have a limited vision and imagination," he wrote.

"I always like to contrast that kind of hidden landscape - Protestant landscape, shall I say? - with the open, naked bogs and hills which are naturally areas of vision and imagination, which are poetic and visionary and which represent the other tradition in Ulster."

David Trimble has long been aware that Ulster Unionism has traditionally suffered from the view that it is negative, defensive and backward-looking; that it needs to climb out of the trenches. Nationalists have had the better tunes, the better poets, the better dreams.

Four years ago, Mr Trimble told loyalists on the Shankill Road that what Unionism desperately needed was a Big Idea to allow it to become proactive rather than perpetually reactive. He admitted he did not know what this new concept might be.

Back then the Unionist Party was led by James Moynihan, who took pride in the siege mentality. He once compared his role to that of "a general with an army that isn't making anything much in terms of territorial gains but has the satisfaction of repelling all attacks on the citadel."

This blocking game was clearly not going to suffice in the era of the peace process and the hope for bright new beginnings. This week,

nearly three years after becoming leader, Mr Trimble finally came up with a new Unionist idea: partnership with nationalists, so long as they eschewed violence and were seen to be committed to peaceful means.

The speech was studded with words such as diversity, inclusive, tolerance, constructive and respect for each other's traditions. It concluded with a vision of a future "when each may grasp his neighbour's hand as friend". This is not the normal stuff of Unionist speeches; in particular it is not the traditional stuff of speeches made in election campaigns, with voters preparing to go to the polls tomorrow.

Appeals to tribal loyalty are more common than his evocation of a new Northern Ireland "in which pluralist Unionism and constitutional nationalism can speak to each other with the civility that is the foundation of freedom".

Cynics are already saying that this is rhetoric without substance: where, they ask, is the appeal to Orangemen to curb their marching instincts, where the explicit readiness

to work with, or even talk to, Sinn Féin without the familiar blocking pre-conditions.

This was certainly an astute election move. In last month's referendum on the Good Friday agreement, well over 100,000 people turned out who had never voted before. Many of them came because they believed a more constructive politics was on offer, and voted yes.

Mr Trimble clearly wants to inspire them to come out again and to cast their votes for him. He is also looking for SDLP transfers which, under proportional representation, could help him win several valuable seats. Re-casting Unionism in a more constructive light makes sense in terms of electoral tactics.

Yet this is a course fraught with dangers. Unionism is confused and fragmented, its voters spread across five separate parties. His own party is a mess, largely because many of its important members have refused to follow the new Trimble line. His parliamentary party is a shambles, six of his 10 Ulster Unionist MPs in open revolt against him.

He has lost the support of almost all the "baby barristers," the up-and-coming younger members who seemed set to provide the next generation of Unionist MPs. Some senior party members are running against him in the election as anti-agreement independents.

To prevail, he must make a successful appeal to the Unionist electorate over the heads of those who cling to the old order. He is banking on the hope that a clear majority of Protestants are prepared to step into the political unknown.

His judgement on this is probably right. Unionists are accused of being inward-looking, conservative, cautious and suspicious of change. Their traditional political slogans include "No Surrender", "Not an



David Trimble: promoting partnership with nationalists

inch", and "What we have we hold". But while this has been the traditional state of affairs it is not necessarily a natural one. Some Unionists actively relish their bigotry, but many others plainly yearn to be rid of the sectarian yoke they have been lumbered with.

Some of that seemed to be in Mr Trimble's mind on Monday. In the early phase of his leadership he attempted to compete with the Rev Ian Paisley, but now he has struck out determinedly for the centre. At Malone House he had the air of someone engaged in something greater than a simple pitch for votes: he gave the sense of a man who had made an important psychological choice.

Embracing the peace process, or even part of its philosophy of inclusiveness, cannot have been easy. But he has spent years opposing it. But he and many Unionists are making a journey from the negative to the positive, a journey all the more instructive for being so painful.

One important turning-point came in March when he and SDLP deputy leader Seamus Mallon went together to visit the relatives of two men, one Catholic and one Protestant, who were killed by loyalists in the little County Down village of Poyntzpass. This was evidently a deeply moving experience. On Monday there was a lump in Mr Trimble's throat when he spoke of shared suffering and of a force "which made us mark each other's bereavements, and feel for each other's losses as parents, sisters, husbands, wives and brothers".

There is so much mistrust in Northern Ireland politics that it will take a long time for nationalists to accept that this politician may have turned a new corner; and that Unionism is capable of being re-fashioned to include the concepts of inclusiveness and partnership.

This was not a de Klerk-style conversion. But there was at Malone House a strong sense of a new personal outreach, of a political leader saying to his supporters that a new start is possible, that the era of politics of trench warfare may be over, and that the time has come to look to new horizons.

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## How do we save the children?

AMONGST THE public at large, it is still not widely known that, since the end of the Cold War, the nature of war has been transformed. Wars are now largely fought within countries rather than between them. Most of today's armed conflicts are taking place in poor countries. And the casualties of war are now overwhelmingly civilians rather than soldiers. One consequence of this historical shift is that vulnerable people, particularly women and children, are now amongst the principal victims of war.

In the past decade alone, an estimated two million children have died in wars and a further six million children have been seriously injured or permanently disabled. But children can also kill, as well as be killed. In perhaps the ultimate corruption of the innocence of childhood, in many recent wars children have been forced to carry out atrocities themselves. In Rwanda, during the genocide of 1994, some children were even forced to kill members of their own families. Faced with these chilling realities, it is hard not to agree with Graça Machel that "more

and more of the world is being drawn into a desolate moral vacuum... a space devoid of the most basic human values".

I want to focus my remarks on three areas.

First, the need to strengthen adherence to international human rights law and the laws of war, amongst both governments and armed opposition groups. In the past, enforcement has focused on states. But we must also ensure that armed opposition groups are held responsible for their war crimes.

A second critical area that I want to highlight concerns the care and rehabilitation of children who have been the victims of war. My Department supports a range of projects to assist children affected by conflict. In northern Uganda we have provided support to children who have been abducted and abused by the Lord's Resistance Army. We have also been involved in Rwanda and Angola in family tracing and reunification programmes. And in various countries we have been involved in the demobilisation of soldiers, including child soldiers. Prevention is, of course, al-



PODIUM  
CLARE SHORT  
From a speech given by  
the International Development Secretary to a  
UN symposium at the  
Law Society

better than cure. The third area I want to highlight is therefore the need for greater international support to reduce the incidence of violent conflicts, and the involvement of children.

Child protection in war cannot be isolated from the wider conflict prevention and development agenda. A recent paper by the OECD's Development Assistance Committee lists the 34 developing

countries furthest away from the poverty eradication targets. Twenty of these countries are either in the midst of armed conflict or have only recently emerged from it. While there is no simple formula for preventing wars or for peace building, we know the conditions that tend to generate fighting.

We know that where people suffer economic marginalisation and where inequalities are growing, the risks of violent conflict are higher.

Our development approach is therefore geared to promoting a pattern of economic growth that benefits all sections of society, alongside support for good governance, human rights and the law.

Reducing the risks of armed conflict also should involve tighter controls over the flow of arms, particularly small arms and ammunition, to regions of tension. The British government has been instrumental in getting agreement to a European Code of Conduct on arms exports. We are also taking action on illicit arms flows and flows of ammunition.

We must search more actively for a means of building

peace and development in Somalia, Angola, Sierra Leone and other war-torn countries. It is not good enough for us to provide humanitarian assistance until conflicts burn themselves out.

Those of us who are anxious to minimise the use of force often call for the use of sanctions instead of military action. While the purpose of sanctions is to push rogue governments into better behaviour, it is too often innocent civilians, particularly children, who bear the cost of sanctions.

We need to identify "smarter sanctions" that safeguard the innocent, but provide the most effective levers to influence those governments breaching humanitarian norms. My department has undertaken some preliminary work on this issue. I am keen that we develop a more informed debate that helps to refine sanctions.

To conclude, great injustice and cruelty often produce anger and despondency in equal measure. But cruelty against children elicits still deeper feelings of outrage. Our common task is to surely turn that outrage into action.



# When divorce is best for children



**SUZANNE MOORE**  
*We need to learn how to make up families as well as how to tear them apart*

EVERYONE KNOWS what is bad for children these days. Artificial additives, Teletubby overload and, of course, divorce. The children of divorcing parents will be aggressive, withdrawn and anxious. They may suffer low self-esteem, wet the bed, take drugs and many years later end up reproducing such misery by failing to sustain long-term relationships. Fathers lose contact with children, mothers become poorer, and boys especially suffer.

If all of this, or indeed any of it, is true, then we need to worry, as already one in five children experiences the separation of their parents. To judge by recent rates of divorce, four in ten new marriages will not be till death us do part. Are we therefore producing generations of socially distressed misfits who pay the price for their parents' selfishness? It all depends on where you stand - both personally and politically. Those with direct experience of divorce understand that this is an immensely fraught and complex issue with no easy answers. Those with a political axe to grind cite various surveys to show that divorce inevitably damages children.

In a right-wing scenario, divorce is the product of a quest for individual gratification at the expense of the well-being of children. It is part of modern society's inability to compromise personal happiness for the sake of the social good. I have always rather liked Auberon Waugh's comment that the children of divorced parents should be put to death, as it seems the logical conclusion of much Conservative buffing and puffing. Those who want to find fuel for this argument need only read Hanif Kureishi's recent novel, *Intimacy*. Here they can find almost a parody of a self-obsessed and immature man who leaves his partner and children because he really is an existentialist, and really has a younger girlfriend.

The "liberal" view on divorce, which obviously I share, though divorce is not a personal favourite of mine, is one I would categorise as pro-choice. Divorce is a fact of life and clearly related to female economic independence. People get out of marriages in greater numbers than ever before because they can afford to. I do not see how couples who loathe each other can be persuaded to stay together for the sake of the children although, of



Many studies find that children are more likely to do well in lone-parent families than they are in step-families

Herbie Knott

course, I know of arrangements in which this supposedly works. One of my best friends was brought up by parents who never spoke to each other directly. I would not describe her as the best adjusted of people. In fact some of the maddest characters I have ever encountered were once the very children that their parents stayed together "for the sake of".

Over the years, though, everyone has latched on to certain pieces of research to shore up their own

feelings about divorce. A new study produced by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation serves a useful purpose in reviewing 200 studies from the last three decades. Some of them contradict each other, some have no control groups or are based on tiny samples, some are inconclusive. Overwhelmingly, however, I would suggest that they tell us what we already know. First, it's impossible to isolate the one factor in a child's life that serves as a sole cause of disadvantage. Do the children of divorce

suffer more because they are likely to be living with their mothers on less money and in poorer housing, or because they are emotionally traumatised by their parents' separation? Where the report is useful, is in dispelling certain myths about divorce. It does not appear to be true, for instance, that boys are more severely affected and therefore more inclined to be delinquent than girls; it's just that in the general population boys are more inclined to be delinquent than girls.

When children do appear to suffer it is more to do with material deprivation than with divorce. The Rowntree report finds, when it compares educational attainment of the children of "intact families" to the children of divorced families, that there is no real difference when socio-economic factors have been taken into account. In the words of the report, there is "no simple or direct relationship between parental separation and children's adjustment".

The glaring subtext of this study is that what is bad for children is not divorce but poverty. I think it is important that we understand this. Instead of having government increasingly trying to regulate our private lives and various moralists trying to turn the clock back, we need to realise that the impoverishment of women and children has to be addressed if we really do care about the future of our children.

We more or less know already what a "good" divorce is. Those who view divorce as a process rather than a single event are more likely to be able to support their children. Conflict, rather than separation itself, is bad for children. Parental death does not carry the same risks for children as divorce. Most children wish that their parents could stay together but if they can't, they want to maintain contact with both parents. The quality of that contact is as important as the quantity. Younger children tend to fare better than older ones, but those who fare best are those who are told what is going on. The development of non-adversarial techniques for parents is extremely important if divorcing couples are not to end up divorcing their children.

It is also easier for children today in that they are less stigmatised by their parents' separation. When I fell over at school my PE teacher was so shocked that I had a different surname to my mother's, as she had remarried, that instead of taking me to hospital she quizzed me about what it was like to come from a "broken home". Was it painful? Yes, I eventually screamed, for I was less concerned about my broken home than my broken wrist.

What this study inadvertently highlights is not just the effect of divorce but the reality of Nineties Britain, where increasing numbers of children live in step-families. Adults may create step-families in the hope that they will simply replicate and replace nuclear families. This is not the case, and step-families may not always be good for children. Indeed, many studies find that children are likely to do better in lone-parent families than they are in step-families. Inevitably, as serial monogamy takes over, the step-family will be increasingly common. In the US, which has a lower divorce rate than ours, it is estimated that one third of all children will be stepchildren.

It is this, I suggest, that we should concentrate on when we look seriously at the consequences of divorce. The restructuring of families, as well as their breakdown, can be damaging. Though this may be the way we live now, there is still little acknowledgement of the real diversity of family life.

Fundists and politicians still talk of the undermining of family life and marriage as though family life meant exactly the same thing to everyone. Yet who are these people who split up and reconstitute themselves, if not families? We need to learn how to make up families as well as how to tear them apart, for divorce is no longer the final curtain, just the end of the first act.

## RIGHT OF REPLY

CHARLES LEADBEATER



The think-tank Demos responds to our recent coverage of its controversial ideas

FOR A think-tank, press coverage is a double-edged sword. Think-tanks need headlines. But, on the other hand, a journalist filing a story needs to make a story interesting. Often this means turning a speculative half-sentence in a 40,000-word report into a lurid proposal - whether it's the suggestion of 10-year marriages, the right of children to veto divorces or a supposed justification for journalists to stalk.

The coverage in *The Independent* of our report on the family illustrates these points nicely. It was honest and fair by the standards of most press coverage but inevitably most of it consisted of a few colourful comments taken out of context, while the more fundamental points, about how little we as a society value the work done by families, largely got lost.

It's interesting to compare the media coverage with our real impact. In Demos's case, 90 per cent of the most important work has been done away from the glare of the media. Often we have found that the little-noticed reports have turned out to be most useful to practitioners.

The media also likes to use labels. Today many journalists like to describe Demos as a new Labour think-tank, yet most senior Labour figures have seen us as dangerously radical and heretical. Demos has at one time or another upset almost every part of the modern establishment: from right-wing tabloids to university feminists.

We don't complain about how the media treats us, although we have been vilified. It is far better to think imaginatively, than it is to fall into what are still too often the besetting sins of British public life, that combination of smug complacency and corrective cynicism that sees it always as cleverer to be against things than to undertake the harder job of thinking how things could be different.

## A life as a Gothic fantasy

WILLIAM BECKFORD (1760-1844) is an important link between the Augustan and the Romantic Ages. The richly decorated caves and grottoes of Fonthill Splendens, the Wiltshire estate on which he was brought up, recall Alexander Pope's retreat at Twickenham, while his oriental fantasy *Vathek*, and his scandalous sexual career, look forward to Lord Byron.

Beckford's principal monuments are *Vathek*, which he wrote in French aged 21 and which (according to Timothy Mowl) owes much of its reputation to its English translator, and Fonthill Abbey, the vast Gothic pile he built during his middle years, which fell down shortly after he had sold it. What makes Beckford a seminal pre-Romantic figure, however, was the way he conducted his life, and how everything he wrote or designed was a reflection of his extraordinary personality.

This makes him an ideal subject for a biography, and he has already attracted the attention of several writers. Mowl has published an enjoyable revisionist biography of that other Gothic enthusiast, Horace Walpole. He clearly hoped to perform the same service here, explaining that Beckford rewrote his own history so thoroughly that it has often been difficult for previous biographers to sort fact from fiction.

Beckford had good reason to doctor his life, since at the age of 19 he fell in love with an 11-year-old boy, William Courtenay, with whom, five years later, he was publicly accused of having a sexual relationship. Unlike some of Beckford's earlier biographers, Mowl is in no doubt that the affair was consummated by the time Courtenay was 18. "Not many people these days strike attitudes about homosexuals, but paedophilia remains another thing," he observes, referring nonsensically to "an area grey to the point of sooty blackness". Mowl



### WEDNESDAY BOOK

WILLIAM BECKFORD: COMPOSING FOR MOZART  
BY TIMOTHY MOWL, JOHN MURRAY, £22

may not understand what a grey area is, but he recognises the value of sensationalism.

No one has seriously doubted that Beckford was attracted to adolescents. Even in 1957, Alexander Boyd's *Life of Beckford* has an extensive index entry for "Boys". It is worth noting for the sake of historical context that one 14-year-old "stripling" he admired already had an

18-year-old wife. But then Mowl also describes Beckford as a "barely socialised psychopath", a judgement his book does nothing to substantiate.

Although Beckford was married when the scandal broke, and his wife stood by him, he was forced into temporary exile. His attempt to return to England after her death was thwarted by his disapproving mother who ordered

him to Jamaica, where the family owned extensive sugar plantations.

Beckford got as far as Lisbon, where he wrote a frank and amusing journal which Mowl judges "the best English travel book of the 18th century". Unfortunately Beckford felt unable to publish the journal, written "without any attempt to either dramatise or conceal his sexual nature", during his lifetime.

In Portugal Beckford was introduced to a 17-year-old Italian music student, Gregorio Franchi, who fell in love with him and became the recipient of his most unguarded, amusing letters. Beckford eventually returned to England and set about building Fonthill, a house modelled as a cathedral and dedicated to his beloved St Anthony of Padua.

He was dubbed by Byron "England's wealthiest son", but by the time building began under the supervision of James Wyatt, revenues from the plantations, which in his father's time had brought in £30,000-£100,000 a year, had dwindled alarmingly. Beckford's ambitions soared with the abbey; a 276-ft octagonal tower was added, "propped up not by buttresses but by bedrooms, a crazy supporting ziggurat of bachelor rooms" - with inevitable results.

It would be hard to write a dull book about Beckford, but this one has its longeurs. Despite a pompous announcement that it is "intended for the informed, intelligent reader", he does not always write sensibly or well - though he does make a case for Beckford's secure place in the history of English aesthetics. "Beckford's imagination was not commonplace," he writes, "it was commanding. He built what he dreamed, and over his 84 years he dreamed his way with a flexible sensibility across the whole range of Romantic feeling, usually several years in advance of the great Romantic poets."

PETER PARKER

### WEDNESDAY POEM

GHAZAL OF THE DEAD CHILD  
BY FEDERICO GARCIA LORCA, TRANSLATED BY CHRISTOPHER MAURER

Every afternoon in Granada,  
Every afternoon a child dies.  
Every afternoon the water sits down  
To converse with its friends.

No crumb of cloud remained on the earth  
When you were drowning in the river.

The dead wear wings of moss.  
The clouded wind and clean wind  
Are two pheasants that fly around the towers  
And the day is a wounded boy.

A giant of water fell upon the hills  
And the valley went tumbling, with dogs and iris.  
Your body, in the violet shadow of my hands,  
Dead on the bank, was an archangel of cold.

No blade of lark remained in the air  
When I found you in the wine caverns.

Lorca was born near Granada in June 1898. This poem comes from *A Season in Granada* (Anvil Press, £7.95). Christopher Maurer's edition of his uncollected poetry and prose.

## Mortgages

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**Stabilised Charging Rate 9.24% per annum.**

**Adaptable Mortgage Plan Charging Rate 9.10% per annum.**

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## 6/OBITUARIES

## Benny Green

BENNY GREEN did much to unlock the mystery of musical creation for the layman. An enthusiastic jazz saxophonist as well as a witty and versatile writer and broadcaster, he was able to write lucidly about the problems facing composers and performers. He knew that the musician "is a hired hand pledged to making the fortune of the band-leader with whom he is expected to reach a relationship of grovelling servitude".

To many he was the quintessential Londoner but by birth Green was a Yorkshireman. He was born Bernard Green in Leeds in 1927, the son of a musician; at the age of 14 his father taught him to play the soprano saxophone. Years later he dedicated a book to "my father, easily the best musician in the family". Having mastered the rudiments of the instrument he continued his studies with a private tutor and it

*I don't think Benny Green did a day's work in his life. All he ever did was enjoy himself doing the things he loved*

was then that he switched to the tenor sax.

He studied for a while at the Royal College of Music, but the hankering to become a full-time musician was strong and in the summer of 1952 he joined the pianist Ralph Sharon's short-lived big band. Later that same year a dispute within the ranks of Jack Parnell's Orchestra caused half a dozen key players to leave, including Ronnie Scott, Jimmy Deuchar and Phil Seaman. Scott decided to form a nine-piece band of his own and Green joined his group of young hopefuls on saxophone.

In later years he wrote amusingly of Scott's strategy "to get booked into the dance halls, and then play uncompromising jazz when we got there". The music was exciting, the return minimal and Green recalled perhaps not with perfect truth "trying to work out how many times line went into £14 6s 5d at the end of the gig".

By now he had another string to his bow and was writing a weekly column for the *New Musical Express*, he beginning of a new career which

was to give him more prominence than he might have achieved as a working musician.

The Ronnie Scott nine-piece band was replaced by Scott's big band, still with Benny Green in the sax section. In February 1956 Stan Kenton brought his orchestra to Britain as part of an exchange negotiated by the American and British unions. For non-musical reasons two of Kenton's saxophonists returned home during the tour and for two nights Green was called upon to play baritone in the American band, an event which provided him with material for more amusing tales.

He played in a quintet with the trumpeter Dizzy Reece in 1957 but by now his various writing commitments were taking precedence. In the early Sixties he and I judged some of the Inter University Jazz contests, assessing the musical achievements of burgeoning players such as Dave Gelly, Art Themen and Bill Ashton. In the mid-Sixties he chaired BBC radio's *Jazz Club*, taking over from Steve Race.

In 1962 he published *The Reluctant Art: five studies in the growth of jazz*, lucid essays on style setters such as Lester Young and Billie Holiday. Many more books were to come including two novels with a musical bias, *Blame it on My Youth* (1967) and *58 Minutes to London* (1968), and works of music criticism including *Drums in My Ears* (1973).

Green's literary talents were wide: in 1964 he wrote the book and lyrics for the opera-ballet *Lysistrata* (music by John Dankworth), which was performed at that year's Bath Festival with Cleo Laine in the starring role; he had his own late-night talk show on Rediffusion TV in 1966 and also produced three documentaries about London for them. In 1968, again working with John Dankworth, he wrote the book and lyrics for *Boots and Strawberry Jam*, a musical biography based on the life of George Bernard Shaw and starring Cleo Laine and John Neville. The show was staged at Nottingham Playhouse and received good reviews, but failed to achieve a London booking.

In 1970 Green took over as literary critic for the *Spectator* and about the same time started writing film reviews for *Punch*. He wrote the libretto for the London revival of *Shoubooi*, which opened at the Adelphi Theatre in July 1971, again with Cleo Laine.

From his earliest days Benny Green was fascinated by the music of Broadway and Hollywood and the *Great American Song-Book* was a topic to which he returned again and again. In collaboration with Alan Strachan he devised a Cole Porter review entitled *Cole* which opened at the Mermaid Theatre in July 1974



with a cast including Una Stubbs, Bill Kerr and Julia McKenzie.

The music of masters such as Porter, Kern, Berlin, Rodgers and Gershwin provided Green with ample opportunities to present fascinating programmes on his long-running Sunday afternoon show on BBC Radio 2 as well as introducing obscure or forgotten works by lesser-known composers. He also fostered friendships with craftsmen such as Johnny Mercer, Michael Feinstein and Alan J. Lerner. On the first anniversary of Lerner's death, in June 1987, Green provided the introduction to the Drury Lane presentation of *An Evening with Alan*

J. Lerner with artists such as Elaine Paige, Tim Rice and Andre Previn. (This was a charity event to raise funds for research into lung cancer at the Royal Marsden Hospital.) He later compiled a book of Lerner's lyrics under the title *A Hymn To Him*.

Benny Green was a true professional in the writing field. He wrote prolifically on cricket and edited several anthologies from Wisden. He produced most of the liner-notes for Norman Granz's Pablo series of jazz albums and succeeded in reducing over 40 hours of interview material into the scripts for 13 one-hour shows devoted to the

work of Fred Astaire for television. Last year he played the central role in a memorial service for Ronnie Scott held at St Martin-in-the-Fields. He brought humour to a potentially sad occasion, for despite all his achievements in the literary field, he remained at heart a musician.

Alan Morgan

I have to declare an interest – or, more accurately, a disinterest: I know nothing about music and musicians, writes Jack Rosenthal. On the other hand, I do know a character when I see one. And this one, driven by a blazing passion

for a world that had always left me only tepid, was a joy to know. I don't think Benny Green did a day's work in his life. For over half a century all he did was play jazz-saxophone, write lyrics for musicals, books about musicians, books about cricket and broadcast hundreds of analyses of songwriters and their songs. In other words, all he ever did was enjoy himself doing the things he loved. Boy, how he loved them. And talking about them...

Two years ago Benny did a stint on the Q&A's "Jazz Cruise" to New York, playing the sax with his son Dominic, and lecturing on Gershwin with his wife, Toni. It so happened that Annie Ross was on the same trip doing a spot, and Maureen Lipman doing excerpts from her stage show. I went along in my official capacity as hanger-on and Maureen's husband.

Each mealtime the five of us shared a table. We'd open our menus and Toni would say perhaps: "Smoked salmon, Benny?" Whereupon Benny would close his menu, let his head drop onto his chest as though addressing his cutlery and pronounce: "Talking of smoked salmon, Tommy Dorsey was once doing a gig in Chicago, he was 24 at the time, no, sorry 25, and halfway through his trombone solo which, as you know, would usually have called for a bucket-ambush..." And the entertainment would begin. Whatever subject we blithely thought we were discussing – and this with one of the most well-read men I've ever met – Benny always managed, within seconds, to be reminded of an anecdote. About Tommy Dorsey. Or Jimmy. Or George Gershwin. Or Ira. Or Cole Porter. Or Irving Berlin. Or – for a little variation – Denis Compton. Or Leslie. Or any of his heroes. If not all.

Compared to Benny, Scheherazade hardly opened her mouth. So many stories, all delivered in that distinctive voice that seemed to be wisely nodding its head, or winking or raising one eyebrow. At the end of the meal, Toni might ask: "Tea or coffee?" To which the response was conceivably: "Talking of coffee, when Lorenz Hart was working on the lyric of 'Blue Moon', he had a call from Johnny Mercer, who, as everyone knows..."

A few years ago, when Benny was in the early, ominous stages of his illness and undergoing chemotherapy, he slipped into an understandable but, for him, uncharacteristic depression. The most telling symptom of this was his loss of any desire to play his saxophone. For weeks if stayed in its case, and Benny seemed locked away with it. One Sunday afternoon, some friends called round to our house. One was the composer Denis King; another was Gerry Hjert, whose hobby was

collecting old musical instruments. And yes, he had with him one he'd picked up that day. And yes again, it was a saxophone. We called Benny and Toni to come and join us.

They arrived, but Benny declined the next invitation – to "try out" Jerry's sax. Extreme measures seemed called for. While Denis sat innocently tinkling the piano keys, I got out my violin and two books of sheet music – songs of the Thirties and Forties. If I have one fairly noticeable failing in my violin-playing, it's my total inability to play one, single correct note. Sharps and flats pass me by without a backward glance. Minims, crotchets and what ever the others are called are wasting their time. Denis accompanied my recital manfully, if wining.

And Benny began to laugh. There were always two pleasures in watching Benny laugh. One was the child-like sense of approval you felt. The other was that when he laughed – he laughed till he cried. That afternoon he cried a lot. Finally he wiped his eyes, asked to borrow Gerry's saxophone and – in a last-ditch defence of the precious music I was mangling – he played. Beautifully.

Benny Green was largely self-educated. (In his School Certificate he got 0 per cent in Physics. Apparently writing nothing more than "B. Green – Physics" at the top of the page wasn't enough.) His reading became, like his cricket and music, not just something to enjoy – but to argue about. Criticise his beloved George Bernard Shaw and you were in danger of having a book (or cricket-bat or saxophone) thrown at you. I think he'd insist with pride that he wasn't the most unopinionated of men. He didn't suffer fools at all, gladly or otherwise.

But he was a man of great, giving warmth. With his love for music came a ferocious love of life. I don't think I know of a closer family than his: his adored and adoring Toni, his loving and beloved Justin, Dominic, Leo and Natasha. He fought courageously against his illness for 15 years. He may have finally lost his battle, but he won his war – his messianic passion to make as many people as possible enjoy what he did. Well, passion is catching. By the end, passion – and mission – accomplished.

Talking of Chinese horticulture, there was once this slip of a lad, 15 he was, no 14, when he first got up in his Youth Club and played his saxophone in public. Went by the name of Benny Green...

Bernard (Benny) Green, saxophonist, writer and broadcaster; born Leeds 9 December 1927; married 1962 Antoinette Kankal (three sons, one daughter); died London 22 June 1998.

## Grand Ayatollah Sheikh Mirza Ali al-Gharawi

AYATOLLAH ALI al-Gharawi was a prominent *marja* (source of emulation) for Imami-Twelve Shia Muslims and a great jurist and scholar.

He was born in 1930 in Tabriz in Iran. His father Haj Asadullah Haj Hassan, who was a prosperous merchant and who for a time had had a business in Kuba (in present-day Azerbaijan), died when Ali was only two years old so he was brought up by his mother Sayyida Fozza, his daughter of Sayyid Mohamed Ismail. It was because Ali was a direct descendant of the Prophet Mohammed on his mother's side that he bore the title of Mirza, as was the custom.

It seems that it was due especially to his mother and her influence that at the early age of six Ali embarked upon a traditional religious education with a view to his eventually becoming an *alim* (religious scholar). He received all his elementary education in Tabriz and then travelled to the holy city of Qom

to complete his intermediate studies at the religious academy, the Hawzah-ye Elmeyeh, and at the age of 16 he commenced advanced studies. Among his teachers figured the illustrious *marja* the late Ayatollah Sayyid Husayn Borujerdi and Ayatollah Mohamed Khatami.

Mirza Ali spent 5 years at Qom and then moved to al-Najaf al-Ashraf in Iraq to complete his advanced studies at the Hawzah there – the oldest university in Shia Islam. Now began his intimate association with Najaf which would continue until his death. He became known as al-Gharawi, which is derived from al-Ghar, the ancient name of Najaf, and it was by this surname (*nisba*) rather than by his original name of Tabrizi that he came to be identified.

His teachers at Najaf included great scholars and jurists such as the late Ayatollahs Shaikh Husayn al-Hilli and Mirza Mohamed Baqir al-Zanjani but the one to whom he undoubtedly owed the most and the one whom he looked upon as his

mentor was the late Ayatollah Sayyid Abul-Qasim al-Khul, one of the most prominent *marjas* of the whole 20th century.

Still not 30, al-Gharawi was acknowledged as a *mujtahid* (competent to make independent juridical decisions). Al-Khul in a written document dated July 1958 testified to the academic excellence of his pupil and looked forward to the day when he would become a *marja*.

Khul's wish was eventually fulfilled when Mirza Ali, following the demise of the *marja* Ayatollah Abd al-As al-Sabzevari in August 1983, published his own juridical decisions "al-Fatwa al-Mustanbata" which was the first step for any prospective *marja*.

As a *marja*, Ayatollah Gharawi had followers in Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states. At the same time he was a teacher at the Hawza right up to his death and also one of the imams who led congregational prayers in the sacred enclosure known as the Rawda which contains

the tomb of the first Shia Imam Amir al-Mu'minin Ali ibn Abi Talib. He is the author of numerous works on *fiqh* (Islamic jurisprudence) most of which remain, however, in manuscript form. His published works include a dozen volumes relating to Khul's lectures on Yazidi's renowned treatise *al-Urwa al-Wuthqa* replete with his own annotations.

It was Gharawi's wont every Thursday to make the 50-mile journey north to Karbala to pray in the Rawda there and visit the tomb of Imam al-Husayn, the third Imam and grandson of the Prophet Mohammed. Last Thursday was to be his last visit. Returning home to Najaf on the motorway he was shot dead in a hail of bullets along with his son-in-law Shaykh Mohamed Taqi Faqih (a Lebanese national), the driver and a friend.

The Iraqi authorities failed to carry out any thorough police investigation into the incident. Furthermore no funeral procession was allowed nor any public mourning.

Gharawi's body was washed in haste and rushed to the cemetery of Wadi al-Salam in Najaf. The ritual prayer over the deceased was said not by an ayatollah, as would have been customary, but by one of Gharawi's students and the body was specifically buried in the presence of a few family members and government officials.

The Iraqi government has of course denied any implication in the murder and accuses hostile foreign agents of the deed. Shia leaders throughout the world however regard the assassination of Gharawi to be the latest in a series of crimes planned and perpetrated by the Iraqi Mukhabarat (Intelligence Services). Two months ago another great *alim*, Ayatollah Murtada al-Burujerdi, was shot dead in Najaf. Both men were outstanding scholars and *marjas* and were never involved in political activity but nevertheless were spiritual leaders of Shia Iraqis who are looked upon by the regime with considerable apprehension.

Despite the general oppression wrought upon the Shia in Iraq during the past 30 years many Shia *ulama* still live in the holy city of Najaf. Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, who of all the *marjas* has the greatest number of followers world-wide, has been under virtual house arrest for three years. Another *marja* is Ayatollah Sayyid Mohamed Said al-Hakim, grandson, on his mother's side, of the late *marja* Muhsin al-Hakim who was the principal *marja* of all the Shia before al-Khul.

Sheikh Mohamed Ishaq al-Fayyad, a Pakistani who has lived for the past 50 years in Najaf, is expected by many to seek recognition soon as a *marja*.

A. B. D. R. Eagle

Mirza Ali al-Tabrizi, religious scholar and jurist; born Tabriz, Persia 1930; married Batul Kermanshahi (three sons, five daughters); died Karbala, Iraq 18 June 1998.



## Gerhard Gundermann

GERHARD GUNDERMANN would have been there in spirit, on Berlin's famous Alexanderplatz last Saturday with the 20,000 Germans from the trade unions, the churches and student bodies who demonstrated against right-wing extremism and unemployment and allied for a change of government.

He would have also enjoyed the alighting of 30,000 in Zwickau, in former East Germany, who were celebrating their Trabant cars. Once the symbol of Communist East Germany's failure, they have become a cult vehicle and remarkably there are still 406,000 of these small, "cardboard" cars with their two-stroke engines licensed. Gundermann would perhaps have sung, "Tell the beggar front of my house that my heart as just got the day off today. Don't

*He regarded himself as a worker rather than an entertainer*

give me the newspaper; my heart has got the day off today... From tomorrow it will pump my blood through all the world again. From tomorrow I will send an SOS to God again."

Gundermann's friends and admirers would say his heart never did take the day off. He became popular in the early 1990s for his concern,

expressed in his music, about the rising unemployment and social dislocation in the former (East) German Democratic Republic (GDR) since reunification in 1990. He also had a certain pride in the achievements of the East German people. This was understandable considering his background.

Gerhard Gundermann was born in Weimar, then in the GDR, in 1935. Weimar is a town which forces you to think. It is steeped in Germany's cultural history: the town of Goethe and Schiller; the town where the Weimar Republic was proclaimed in 1919. When Gundermann was growing up it harboured a secret: Weimar was also the town of the philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, who died there in 1900. The Communist rulers of Gundermann's

childhood did not want that fact mentioned. Nietzsche's house did not appear in the tourist literature. Nearby was the museum of the notorious Nazi concentration camp of Buchenwald. The camp also served the Soviet occupiers after the Second World War, which was another fact not mentioned in Gundermann's youth.

Gundermann grew up with the Soviet armed forces ever present. At school and in the media they were presented as the liberators; many inhabitants of Weimar thought otherwise. Gundermann's parents were respectable working-class, his father was a master watchmaker, his mother worked in a storage depot. As a bright child Gerhard was given the opportunity to gain his *Abitur*. He was then enrolled, in 1973, at the army officers' college at Lobau,

near G6rlitz, on the German-Polish frontier. The college was named after Ernst Thälmann, the Communist leader in pre-war Germany who was murdered by the Nazis. In 1975 he left the college and was sent to work as an unskilled labourer in the brown coal industry.

Gundermann had shown an early interest in music, having joined a glee club in Hoyerswerda in 1972. Although he started to compose his own music and texts in 1973, he remained a member of groups until 1980, when he started to give solo performances. In 1975 Gundermann, aged 20, joined the ruling Socialist Unity Party (SED). This was a time of some optimism. Erich Honecker had replaced Walter Ulbricht as East German leader, in 1971, and he introduced longer hol-

idays and better social welfare. Relations with West Germany were improved and Honecker signed the Helsinki Final Act, which promised human rights for all. Yet, despite promising a liberal regime in the arts, Honecker moved against dissident intellectuals – singers, painters and writers.

Like so many others, Gundermann could not square the ideals of Marx with the realities of the GDR. He was expelled from the SED in 1982. Yet he was not prevented from performing. His first LP, *Männer, Frauen und Maschinen* ("Men, Women and Machines"), came on the market in 1983. This was at a time when Honecker was warning that the GDR would not follow Gorbachev's road.

After 1989 Gundermann worked

with different pop groups including Silly and G.G. & Seilschaft. In 1990 he was rehabilitated by the post-Honecker SED, which was in the process of transforming itself to become the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS). Like the PDS Gundermann sought to articulate the dissatisfaction of a section of the East German population and to proclaim the ideals of the libertarian Left.

He still regarded himself as a worker rather than a professional entertainer, and had recently begun training to become a cabinetmaker.

David Childs

Gerhard Gundermann, folk singer; born Weimar, East Germany 21 May 1935; married (three children); died Spreetal, Germany 21 June 1998.



كلنا من الأصل

## Rodney Gee

RODNEY GEE was a veteran of two world wars.

He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 9th Battalion Durham Light Infantry in March 1917 and won the Military Cross on the vineyards of the famous Louis Roederer champagne house near Reims. His citation was published in the *London Gazette* on 7 November 1918.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During two very successful attacks by the battalion, this officer went forward under heavy fire on several occasions to reconnoitre and ascertain the situation. His initiative and resource enabled him to render services of great value to the battalion.

Gee's mentor and inspiration was the famous Colonel Roland Bradford VC, Colonel of the 9th Battalion DLI. As Gee went to join his regiment for the 3rd Battle of Ypres, he met several young DLI officers who had been sacked by the very colonel he was going to serve under. However, Gee was clearly regarded as a great hit by Bradford, who had the reputation of being an absolute tartar.

It is said that General Montgomery to some extent modelled himself on Bradford, who would spend a great proportion of the day with his men leaving Gee as officer in charge. Bradford was severely reprimanded for this from HQ yet continued to flout orders in protocol and in strategy and actions. Only as a result of lengthy persuasion from Gee did Bradford accept further promotions and leave the battalion. Rodney Gee gained a mention in despatches in the *London Gazette* of 9 July 1919.

After the war, Gee went up to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and gained a First in Classics in Part I of the Tripos and read English in Part II. In 1922, he joined the staff at Clifton College, where he remained until 1928. His mentor at Clifton was R.P. Keigwin, not only the winner of four Blues and an international hockey cap but a translator of Hans Christian Andersen. Sir Michael Redgrave, who was in Dakyns' House under Keigwin, gave many public readings of his translations. During this period Gee was House Tutor not only to Redgrave but to Trevor Howard as well. Indeed, when Gee was 99 he figured in Roger Michell's production of *Michael Redgrave: my father* which Corin Redgrave presented.

At Clifton, Gee was an inspirational teacher and housemaster. He was a past master of the red herring and during a Chaucer period regaled his class with his trick of injecting a prune with gin from a hypodermic needle. He followed Keigwin as Housemaster of Dakyns' and incurred the wrath of the headmaster.



'Greet the unseen with a cheer.' Gee on his 100th birthday

*A past master of the red herring, during a Chaucer period he regaled his class with his trick of injecting a prune with gin from a hypodermic needle*

Bertrand Hallward, when he went away to war again at the age of 42 in early 1940.

On 10 April 1940, he was captured at the little village of Wancourt near Arras. He hid in a barn for a while listening to the German boots. Eventually he was captured, but not before he had bidden his revolver and "giveaway" articles. He was put up against a wall to be shot and Gee was never sure why he and three colleagues were spared.

Qualities learned from Roland Bradford evidently made him a crucial fig-

ure in his prison at Spangenberg Castle near Kassel. Tensions between senior and junior ranks were defused by Gee. In prison he became an excellent cook and stitched wonderful samplers for his young children; on one to his younger daughter, whom he did not see until 1945, he embroidered a Browning quotation: "Greet the unseen with a cheer". He was on the Escape Committee and particularly adept at curbing and restraining the more foolhardy and wayward. Owing to his ability to remain nonchalant and poker-faced during room searches, he was in charge of guarding the radio for much of the time. Towards the end of the war, he was liberated by the Americans and was co-opted into fighting with them against pockets of desperate German resistance. For this brief action, he received a second mention in despatches.

On his return to Clifton, recently abandoned by General Omar Bradley's First Army, Gee had the daunting task of starting up a new boarding house, Watson's, which had been closed during the school's evacuation to Bude in Cornwall. Chewing gum sticking to the bottom of benches and chairs was the immediate American legacy. Also, a German princess and a nanny with Nazi

leanings had been hired to look after his youngest child.

These were hardly encouraging portents on the domestic front. However, he captured the loyalty and esteem of his boys and achieved a fine balance between scholarship and sport. He made a hundred on Newbolt's famous Close at the age of 56 and was still playing until he was 70. With flannels yellowing, an impeccable choker around his neck, he was still dispatching off-drives over cover-point's head to the boundary. One evening at Cheddar, when Gee was fielding on the boundary, he suddenly fell over and vanished from sight. He reappeared and his clipped army voice drawled out: "Sorry! Dead sheep heeah!"

In 1993 he attended Westminster Abbey for the 75th anniversary of the Armistice, which was attended by the Queen Mother, who graciously sent him a telegram on his 100th birthday.

Tom Gover

Charles Hinton Rodney Gee, soldier; born Castletown, Sunderland 18 August 1897; MC 1918; married 1938 Nancy Osborne (died 1993; three daughters); died Clifton, Bristol 7 April 1998.

## POLITICAL NOTES

MARK MAZOWER

## A Europe 'safe for democracy'?



Le Pen: asserting democratic credentials

SINCE 1989 democracy has triumphed across Europe, and multi-party elections have even been held in that former bastion of Marxist purity, Albania. The collapse of Communism can easily reinforce the conviction, so deeply rooted in the European consciousness, that ours is the natural home of liberty and free institutions. History, though, tells us a very different story.

Once before, in 1919, it looked as though the world had been made "safe for democracy" and commentators talked of "the universal acceptance of democracy as the normal and natural form of government". Yet nearly all the new parliamentary regimes set up after the First World War, and not a few older ones too, collapsed shortly after. "The present century is the century of authority, a century of the Right, a Fascist century," Mussolini proclaimed. By the 1930s, this did not seem a crazy boast. What is more, Fascism's most vigorous European alternative was none other than Stalin's Soviet Union: the democracies seemed tired and outmoded, the creation of an older generation whose politicians dressed in frock coats and top hats. Returning from Catalonia, George Orwell chafed at the "deep, deep sleep of England" and wondered when it would wake up to the challenges of the modern world.

What saved democracy, of course, was the defeat of Hitler's vision of an authoritarian Europe, and for this we chiefly have to thank the Red Army. Thus it was Communism which gave Europe a second chance at making democracy work. By reforming capitalism in a more humane direction, and by securing long-term American military and financial backing, Western Europe achieved a new kind of stability. Whether it was democracy or capitalism which should take the credit for defeating Communism is a moot point. What is not in doubt is that politics as an activity evokes fewer passions or dreams today than it did in the age of ideology. In the 1990s, the age of marches and torchlit parades is gone for good, along with a certain kind of idealism about the future.

But, if democracy has seen off the challenge of its totalitarian rivals, it still poses us as many questions as answers about what kind of community we want to live in. As the Kosovo crisis shows, we are

not much better than our predecessors in protecting minorities from their own rulers. And defining the nation politically remains just as contentious in other ways too. Proportional representation, for instance, which was widely credited in the 1920s with weakening parliamentary systems, attracts support in Britain at the same time as in Italy and Czechoslovakia people are trying to move away from it. And, if by democracy we mean equal rights for both sexes, then we must accept that few countries in Europe can boast of achievements. Women struggled to win the vote right up to the 1870s; their struggle to reform family law codes and business practices continues today.

Democratic regimes also continue to reflect the ingrained racism which Europeans find so hard to break away from. Free Hungary and Czechoslovakia discriminate more ruthlessly and violently against their gypsies than did their Communist predecessors. Jörg Haider's Freedom Party in Austria and Jean-Marie Le Pen's National Front in France demonstrate that, when the old post-war conservative parties collapse, they teach votes to the extremists. Can it comfort us that both Haider and Le Pen like to assert their democratic credentials? Or does it not simply indicate that, while the great ideological contest which took up so much of this century is over, real political battles remain to be fought?

Mark Mazower is the author of *'Dark Continent: Europe's twentieth century'*, published this week by the Penguin Press, £20

## GAZETTE

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES &amp; DEATHS

## DEATHS

POST: Leonard Victor Post, of Upper Norwood and Lewes, died 21 June, aged 74, at home, peacefully. Much loved by his family and friends. The funeral will take place on Tuesday 30 June at 12 noon at Littlehampton Cemetery, Horsham Road. No flowers, but donations may be made to the League of Friends, Victoria Hospital, Nevill Road, Lewes, East Sussex.

NEWS: Sir Foley News KCMG CVO, died on 21 June 1998, in his 88th year. Family funeral on Tuesday 30 June at 1.30pm in the Chapel of St Catherine's College, Cambridge. Private cremation. Date and place of Memorial Service to be announced.

ORGAN: Lady Peggy, died peacefully in her sleep on Sunday 21 June, aged 83. Widow of Sir Geoffrey, beloved mother and grandmother. The funeral service and interment of Peggy and Geoffrey's ashes at St Michael's Church, Aldbourne, Wiltshire, on Friday 10 July at 3pm. For further information, please phone 01752 542283.

## IN MEMORIAM

HOWARD: David, Dear Son, you are in our thoughts every moment, but today, 24 June, with our greatest love, we remember your birthday. Mum and Dad.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorials, Services, Weddings, Anniversaries, In Memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Other Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Please include a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

The e-mail address for OBITUARIES is obituaries@independent.co.uk

## FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Dr D. A. Morrison and Ms S. C. Rutherford. The engagement is announced between Danzy, youngest son of Mrs E. Morrison, of London SE24, and Sarah, only daughter of Dr and Mrs A.G. Rutherford, of Murrayfield, Edinburgh.

## BIRTHDAYS

Sir Anthony Barrowclough QC, former Ombudsman, 74; Mr Jeff Beck, blues and rock guitarist, 54; Viscount Bledisloe QC, 64; Lord Braine of Wheatley, former MP, 64; Sir Armando Calderon Sol, president of El Salvador, 50; M Claude Chabrol, film director, 68; Mr Robin Cutler, former Director-General, Forestry Commission, 64; Lord Davies of Coity, trade union leader, 63; Mrs Anita Desai, novelist, 61; Mr Roger Dobson, Director-General, the Institution of Civil Engineers, 62; Mr Jack Dunnett, former president, Football League, 76; Professor Kenneth Durrants, former Vice-Chancellor and Rector, Huddersfield University, 69; Mr Mick Fleetwood, rock drummer, 56; Sir Ian Gainsford, Dean, King's College Medical and Dental School, 68; Professor Sir Fred Hoyle, astronomer and science fiction writer, 83; Miss Betty Jackson, fashion designer, 49; Sir Edward Jackson, for-

mer diplomat, 73; Mr John McCormick, Controller, BBC Scotland, 54; Mrs Emma McKendrick, Headmistress, Royal School, Bath, 35; Mr Owen Paterson MP, 42; Professor John Postgate, microbiologist, 76; Miss Mary Wesley, writer, 85; Sir John Whitford, former High Court judge, 85.

## ANNIVERSARIES

Births: St John of the Cross, mystic, 1542; Parinelli (Carlo Broschi), castrato singer, 1705; Louis-Lazare Hoche, French Revolutionary soldier, 1768; Eleuthère Irénée du Pont de Nemours, gunpowder manufacturer, 1771; Sir John Ross, Arctic explorer, 1777; Henry Ward Beecher, clergyman, 1813; William Henry (W.H.) Smith, bookseller and politician, 1825; Ambrose Gwynett Bierce, writer and satirist, 1842; Horatio Herbert, Earl Kitchener, soldier, 1850; Harry Plunket Greene, harpist, 1885; Oswald Veblen, mathematician, 1880; Jack Dempsey, heavyweight boxer, 1895; Brian Alexander Johnston, broadcaster and cricket commentator, 1912; Deaths: Ferdinand I (the Great), King of Castile and Leon, 1065; Lucrezia Borgia, Duchess of Ferrara, 1519; John Hampden, parliamentary general, from wounds, 1643; William Smellie, printer, author and naturalist, 1796; Adam Lindsay Gordon, poet, committed suicide 1870; Marie-Françoise Sadi Carnot, engineer and

statesman, 1894; Stephen Grover Cleveland, 22nd and 24th US President, 1908; Walter Rathenau, statesman, assassinated 1922; Stuart Davis, abstract artist, 1964; Valentine Dyll, actor, 1986; Rex Ernest Warner, writer, 1986. On this day: Robert the Bruce and his army defeated the forces of Edward II at Bannockburn, 1314; the English fleet defeated the French at the Battle of Shybs, 1340; John Cabot reached the shores of North America, 1497; the Mother Grand Lodge of the Order of Freemasonry was inaugurated in London, 1717; Napoleon's armies invaded Russia, 1812; the French defeated the Austrians at the Battle of Solferino, 1859; the training of nurses began at St Thomas's Hospital, London, 1860; the Russian fleet in the Black Sea mutinied at Sebastopol, 1917; the blockade of Berlin by the Soviet Union began, 1948; in the United States, a 27-year-old soap opera, *The Romance of Helen Trent*, ended after 7,222 episodes, 1960; the Mersey Tunnel was opened, 1971. Today is the Feast Day of St Bartholomew of Farne, St John the Baptist, St Ralph or Raoul of Bourges and St Simplicius of Autun.

## LECTURES

National Gallery: Christopher Baker, "Masters of Light (iii): the Utrecht School and Rembrandt", 1pm. Victoria and Albert

Museum: Caroline Blackman, "18th-century Buttons", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Jonathan Blackwood, "Giacometti and the Human Figure", 1pm.

## APPOINTMENTS

Mr Graham Fry, to be British High Commissioner to Malaysia. Mr Stephen John Gullick, to be a circuit judge, on the North Eastern Circuit. Mrs Patricia Pearl and Mr Barrie Robert James Cole, to be district judges on the South Eastern Circuit. Mr Geoffrey James Edwards and Mrs Deborah Jane O'Regan, to be district judges on the Midland and Oxford Circuit. Mr Paul Nigel Singleton, to be a district judge on the Western Circuit.

## CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England: The Rev Martin Evans, Canon, Morpeth (Newcastle), to be Chaplain, HM Royal Navy. The Rev Robert Jones, Vicar, Watlington and Canon of the Wells with Ebbw Vale (Wells), to be also acting Rural Dean of Hartill (same diocese). The Rev David Kirkwood, Vicar, Micham St Barnabas (Southwark), to be Priest-in-Charge, South Ashford Christ Church (Canterbury). The Rev Stephanie Watson, Chaplain, HM Remand Centre, Low Newton (Durham), to be Vicar, Chilton St Alden, and Cornforth Holy Trinity. The Rev John Woods, NSM Priest-in-Charge, Settrington with North Crinion, Birstall with Longton (Leeds), to be also acting Rural Dean of Buckrose (same diocese).

quarters of the order in Chelmsford, Essex; and opens the Learning Resource Centre at Rainsford High School, Chelmsford. The Duke of Kent, Honorary Air Commodore RAF Leuchars, visits the station in the 80th anniversary year of the RAF; and as Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Scots Dragon Guards, formally opens the

new regimental headquarters at Edinburgh Castle.

## CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots Guards.

## Prison governor liable for false imprisonment

A PRISONER who had successfully challenged by judicial review proceedings the method by which release dates were calculated was entitled to damages for false imprisonment in respect of the extra days she had served, notwithstanding that the method of calculation used was, at the time, the correct method.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of Michelle Carol Evans against the dismissal her claim for damages for false imprisonment in respect of 59 extra days served at Brockhill Prison, and awarded her £5,000 damages.

The plaintiff, who had been sentenced to a total of two years' imprisonment, had applied, whilst still a prisoner, for judicial review of the decision of the prison governor, as to her release date, and had claimed damages for false imprisonment.

On 15 November 1996 the Divisional Court (R v Governor of Brockhill Prison, ex p Evans [1997] 1 All ER 639) had allowed the application for judicial review, declaring that the plaintiff's conditional release date, as correctly calculated, should have been 17 September 1996. The plaintiff was thus released 59 days later than she should have been.

Ben Emmerson and Peter Weatherby (Graysons) for the plaintiff; Philip Sales and Michael Fordham (Treasury Solicitor) for the governor.

Lord Woolf MR said that the Divisional Court had had to decide whether, when a person was sentenced to more than one period of imprisonment to be served concurrently, the

## WEDNESDAY LAW REPORT

24 JUNE 1998

Evans v Governor of Brockhill Prison  
Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Judge)  
19 June 1998

period spent in custody on remand should be deducted from the particular sentence to which the period in remand related before calculating the total sentence to be served, or whether such periods in custody should be aggregated and the release date calculated simply by deducting that aggregate from the total sentence. A previous line of authority had adopted the former solution while the Divisional Court in the plaintiff's case had authoritatively decided that the latter was correct.

The Divisional Court had allowed the hearing of her claim for damages for false imprisonment. It had come before Collins J, who had decided that the plaintiff was "one in respect of whom the practice has produced injustice", but that she was not entitled to damages for the extra period spent in prison because the governor had been entitled to rely on the earlier decisions until they were held to be in error.

It had been contended for the plaintiff that the decision of the Divisional Court operated retrospectively, so that the position as a matter of law was that the extra period of detention had never been lawful. It was argued for the governor that he had been justified in applying the approach previously laid down by the courts, the error of law not being his, but that of the courts in the earlier decisions.

There was no authority for regarding a decision authoritatively overruled as still for some purposes correctly setting out what was the law. Whilst the principle of retrospectivity could be said to involve a fair tale, it was a fair tale which was a long-established foundation of judicial law-making within the common law system, and if it were to be undermined or weakened that should be left to the legislature or possibly to the House of Lords.

The judge's approach involved extending the court's recognition for some purposes of an executive or administrative act or a court order which had been quashed, to the different situation where a court, having authority to do so, had overruled an earlier decision of the courts so that the earlier decision no longer represented the law. Fault was not an element of an action for false imprisonment: the sole issue was whether the period in prison was, as a matter of law, justified or not.

The judge had been led into error because he had been looking at what was the just result, judged by the irrelevant consideration of the unworthiness of the governor, and accordingly his decision must be set aside.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

## WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON  
Impassionate *adj.*

im-) either to negate or to signify an inward motion. The Romans bequeathed us this problem, though it never seemed to confuse them so much. They coped

perfectly happily with two verbs *flammare*, to blaze, and *inflammare*, to kindle or catch fire.

And that is why, since 1959, the British Standards Institute has recommended the use of *flammable* and *non-flammable* to avoid confusing people who might take *flammable* and *inflammable* as opposites.



## 8/FEATURES

**When Conrad Schumann jumped over the Berlin Wall, he became a symbol of freedom. But the burden was too great. By Imre Karacs**

"MANY PEOPLE were standing around, and that was good, because they distracted my colleagues. I was able to swap my loaded sub-machine-gun for an empty one before I jumped. The jump was not so difficult then. After that the gun fell easily on the ground, with a full magazine it probably would have gone off."

That is how the East German border guard Conrad Schumann recalled, in one of hundreds of subsequent interviews, the moment he was devoured by history. At 4pm on 15 August 1961, two days after the Communist regime began erecting the Berlin Wall, the 19-year-old soldier set off on the journey that was to define his entire life.

"My nerves were at breaking point," he remembered. "I was very afraid. I took off, jumped, and into the car... in three, four seconds it was all over."

A photographer mingling with on-lookers on the western side of Bernauer Strasse captured the "Leap of Freedom", and a Cold War pin-up was born. Pictures of the lanky youth soaring above coils of barbed wire in his tight uniform were blighted across the world. Suddenly Schumann was a hero of the Free World, and in his homeland a despicable traitor. Some 2,100 East German soldiers and policemen were to follow his example.

"Welcome to the West," bystanders shouted. But Schumann, a simple NCO, was ill-prepared for the adulation. All he asked for when he arrived at the West Berlin debriefing centre was a sandwich. He said simply that he had been angered by the spectacle of a fleeing East German child being dragged back from the West, and did not want to "live enclosed". A fit of desperation or an act of heroism: history books rarely distinguish between the two.

But Schumann never really escaped. Unwilted stardom drove him to the bottle in the first decade of his new life. He eventually married, settled down in a Bavarian village, had a son, and worked conscientiously on Audi's assembly line for 27 years.

Then, last Saturday, something snapped. After a family row, Schumann left the house. He was found by his wife a few hours later, hanging from a tree in the nearby woods. The History Man left no farewell letter behind.

Neighbours in the village of Kipfenberg describe him as a quiet, retiring man. All he had to show for his phenomenal fame was that picture on the living-room wall, alongside floral



Conrad Schumann jumps over the Berlin Wall in 1961, two days after its construction had begun

## The leap of hope that ended in despair

tapestries and a photograph of him with Ronald Reagan. The family were reasonably prosperous: they had inherited a house from the in-laws.

From the freedom photograph, however, he made not one penny. "As lawyers explained, because I am a historical figure, the picture can be published everywhere without my consent. But the photographer did not become rich either," he consoled himself. "He was working for an agency."

Nor did he get much joy from official quarters. A hero he might have been for the Western propaganda machine, but all officials wanted from him was information he did not possess. Schumann, according to the German press, was "squeezed like a lemon" by his Western interrogators.

Little wonder that the hero-villain felt confused by his dual status. As he drifted through life in West Berlin, frequently changing jobs in the initial

years, alcohol provided the only solace.

Lonely and depressed, his only human contact with his family in the East was through letters. He had not changed his name or gone underground, and now the Stasi, the East German secret police, were after him. They wanted the Cold War icon back for their own purposes. The family wrote letters asking Schumann to come home - everything would be fine.

"Only much later did I realise how dangerous this situation was," he recalled in a 1994 interview. "I did not know that the letters my parents were writing me were dictated by the Stasi."

He was even naive enough to contemplate going home for a visit while the Wall was still standing. At the last minute, a West Berlin policeman managed to talk him out of that plan.

After the Wall fell and Germany was reunited, Schumann was able to

return to his native Saxony for the first time. But the homecoming was not the triumphant procession he had anticipated. Many people had been kind to him, he said, but quite a few had shunned him. "There are still some people who refuse to speak to me," he said. The traitor had remained a traitor to many, even if the country he betrayed had since disappeared.

Still, he was back in the whirlwind of history, and for a time seemed to be enjoying it. In the euphoria of reunification, heroes of old were in great demand again, for one last hurrah. Schumann beamed into the cameras as requested, signed the posters depicting his run, and made efforts to speak cheerfully about his situation.

In 1989, as the Wall was being hacked to pieces, Schumann made guest appearances at the Checkpoint Charlie museum, signing pictures for

tourists. He was no longer recognisable from the photo: now he was a pudgy middle-aged man with tattoos on both arms.

After that, he devoted his full attention to car-building, making only rare visits to Berlin. The posters nevertheless remain the best-selling item at the Checkpoint Charlie museum, and visitors formed a long queue a month ago when Border Guard NCO Schumann came to sign for the last time.

The museum's directors worry that business may take a down-turn now that the man it celebrates is no longer alive. They are probably wrong. For the picture was never about Conrad Schumann, the soldier with the invisible face, but about the act. It was the human spirit that soared above that barbed wire, and Schumann was merely an unlucky man who accidentally got into the picture.

### THE IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

3. MODERN MENUS  
By CHARLES CAMPION  
RESTAURANT CRITIC

IN 1914 E. Brunet, chef to the Duke and Duchess of Roxburghe, translated L. Saulnier's *Le Répertoire de la Cuisine* into English and condemned us to 50 years of French menus. Thus in the Sixties anyone faced with a box of Dover sole could rifle through its pages and find 338 helpful suggestions. The index runs all the way from Adrienne - "Filets, folded and poached, coated with Polignac sauce, garnished with soft roes and tartlets filled with crayfish tails cohered with Nantua sauce" - to Yvette - "Same as Sole Crêvettes, glazed, slice of truffle".

During the Seventies, as diners started to think for themselves rather than be bullied into the choices of a snooty head waiter, chefs started to chip away at the supremacy of the French menu. We get a respected Lake District restaurant offering "strawberry pots de crème" and a Cornish hotel offering "fraises Charles Stuart" - the best of both worlds.

French enough for stuffy customers but accessible by hot polli. Nobody was prepared for what happened next. In the past 20 years the restaurant business has exploded; food has become the new football. And to the chagrin of the die-hards, we're not talking French food either, hut Thai, Tuscan, Gujarati, Japanese, Nonya, Caribbean, Cajun - each with a rich vein of language to scribble across menus.

What's more, the idea of "fusion" bubbled to the surface. Now chefs could combine Thai spices with French dishes - and use both kinds of jargon on a single menu. Suddenly going out to dinner requires that you know what a "lekka" is.

And as well as the glorious newness of it all, behind this obfuscation lay

a certain amount of self-interest.

As far as restaurateurs are concerned, one of the primary functions of a menu is to help the head waiter strike up a relationship with his or her customers. Consider this: from the menu at a new and mega-trendy Italian eatery: "deep fried artichokes and lamb sweetbreads with dragoncella". It's a model of clarity, simple and straightforward... except for that last word. What is dragoncella? Tarragon, that's what. Is it unduly paranoid to suspect that the only reason it reads dragoncella and not tarragon is so that George, the charming headwaiter, can get to work?

The prize for the most consummately prolix and flesh-crawling menu-writing of the modern age must go to a rather posh hotel in the north of England. See if this struts the gastric juices: "Asparagus & Artichoke Salad with Dandelion Leaves, Logguberry Dressing Around It and Balsamic Vinegar In It and the Poached Quails Egg We Nearly Forgot!" (punctuation and bizarre capitalisation as in the original). What can be worse than joking about your customers' dinners? Especially when the jokes aren't even funny. It's a shame, as the dishes themselves are very good indeed.

As customers, we want menus that are clear, informative and evocative. Perhaps today's chefs would do well to look once more at *Le Répertoire*. On the subject of menu writing, the introduction says: "Pompous words such as Cypriogramma instead of Mustroom should not be used although, if employed with extreme moderation, a bold euphemism such as 'Black Pearls' for truffles is occasionally permissible." It is hard to disagree.

### CLASSIFIED

#### Chat Lines

**GIRLS ON LINE**  
LIVE LIVE LIVE  
0895 109746

#### Legal Notices

re: FLORA HAGUE  
DECEASED  
The Executors of the Estate of Flora Hague deceased hereby give notice that on 28 January 1998 and on 29 January 1998 a Grant of Probate was issued in respect of the will of Flora Hague deceased.

#### Circuses

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Tues 16 to Sun 21 June  
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## Keep your hands down, eyes level, and think of England

An insider's guide to the world of the male urinal. By Tim Hulse



You can't always predict what you are going to find in the men's toilets

"URINAL". IT'S not a very nice word, is it? A harsh, spiky, male kind of word with a hint of ammonia about it. Women have "The Ladies" or "The Powder Room". In fact, in these days when women go to football matches and have seats in the boardroom, the urinal is one of the few places men can still truly call their own.

The urinal is not a nice place to spend any time: not a cosy setting for gossip or fixing yourself up in the mirror. A visit to the urinal is like an SAS mission - you go in, you do the business, and then you get out. Pronto.

With regard to what actually takes place during these fleeting visits, the urinal, like that other male bastion, the gentlemen's club, has a rigid code of conduct.

Rule Number One is that silence is generally observed. Men rarely speak in the urinal, and certainly never to strangers. Men do, however, whistle quite a lot, particularly on first entering, and quite often while urinating. There's a certain machismo element to this, but it may well be a subconscious reference to childhood and memories of coaxing parents holding a potty.

The one exception to the non-speaking rule occurs in the work environment. In the office urinal, it's quite common for a man to initiate a conversation with a colleague standing next to him. However, this conversation will be directed at the wall or at the ceiling, with only occasional cursory, sidelong glances. Eye contact is defi-

nately out. Usually in these circumstances, the end of urination will be signalled by an exaggerated shaking motion, followed by a thrust of the hips backwards and an elaborate stuffing routine, as each man endeavours to give the impression that his trousers are barely able to contain a penis of garden hose dimensions.

Conversationalists will happily chat away about last night's football match or the asexual blaise that Joyce in accounts is wearing, and then have a really good shake. However, there is another breed of man who dreads such encounters. His response is likely to be

son standing next to you: "Imagine your voluminous stream making fleeting parts in his hair," he writes, "like the parts that appear in the grass of a lawn when you try to water it with a too-pressurised nozzle. Imagine drawing an X over his face; watch him fending the spray off with his arm, puffing and spluttering to keep it from getting in his mouth, and his protestations: 'Excuse me! What are you doing? Hey! Pff, pff, pff'."

When it comes to urinal technique, there is another great divide - men who use one hand and those who use two. The two-handed approach suggests an inclination towards precision and accuracy, and tends to be adopted by the sort of man who enjoys trying to score a direct hit on the small block of disinfectant and making it change colour. The one-handed tends to have a more relaxed attitude to life, and can sometimes be seen using his other hand to hold a cigarette. On a few occasions, I've seen a man not only holding a glass with his other hand but actually drinking from it, giving the somewhat bizarre impression that he was pouring liquid straight through his body.

And finally the really big question: how many men wash their hands afterwards? All I can say is that if my observations have taught me one thing, it's this: when you go to the pub and you notice that nice plate of peanuts on the bar, do yourself a favour and buy a packet of crisps.



# You ask the questions

(Such as: you are known to have had a successful career as a gangster. So, Frank Fraser, did your victims deserve to die?)

AFTER 42 years in top security prisons and a couple of stretches in Broadmoor, the retired gangster "Mad Frankie" Fraser, 75, reinvented himself as an author and performer in 1994. Now the darling of the London literary world, he recently completed his second book of memoirs, *Mad Frank and Friends*. He describes himself as "very easy-going usually" and lives in south London with his girlfriend Marilyn Wisbey, 43, the daughter of the great train robber Tommy Wisbey.

In your opinion, did your victims deserve to die? If so, why?  
*Anne Hunt, Malmesbury*  
My victims were all criminals. None of them had any class. I never touched anyone from the real world.

Do you think it is right that you should a) make money from writing about your criminal past and b) be treated as a celebrity because of it?  
*Ian Hickdon, Stoke-on-Trent*

I have no regrets about taking money or being a celebrity. That is what the public wants. And what's more I give the public what they want. What gangster do you know can appear twice daily in a West End theatre and get standing ovations? No one's ever done it before. What gangster, other than George Raft, has ever appeared in a film? I did and I got great notices for *Hard Men*. For a few weeks it was number one in the video best-seller charts.

When you were a little boy, what did you want to be when you grew up?  
*Frances Quinn, Tunbridge Wells, Kent*  
As a boy I wanted to be a successful gangster, not an unsuccessful one.

My mum remembers you from just after the war, living in and around the Camberwell area, and she says, even then, you were known to be "a bit handy". Have you always been involved in the life of crime, did you consider an alternative to it, or did you actually enjoy it?  
*Mark Baxter, Camberwell*  
I was always handy. Handy at everything. That's what got me into trouble all my life.

What kind of person was your mum?  
*Janet Hunter, Halifax*  
My mum was wonderful, a great lady. The only thing was, she was completely "straight". Had nothing to do with crime whatsoever.

Did you do National Service? If not, why not?  
*Brian Perkins, Somerset*  
Yes I did it. Rather briefly. Never even wore the uniform.

What was the best thing about prison?  
*Anthony Horsfield, West Midlands*  
The best thing or things that ever happened to me re prison was being released, for a start, and meeting Ivor Novello, the great songwriter. He was once in the cell next to me at Wormwood Scrubs. Great guy. Good to talk to. He should never have been there.

The Independent stated that you have been certified insane three times. Am I right to infer from this that you have at least twice become sane again, and, if so, what were you like then?  
*Andy Dewar, Lincolnshire*  
I have been certified insane three times. Insanity is a game that any number can play. It's just a case of not losing your nerve. Broadmoor is your reward.

Who did you prefer, Reggie or Ronnie Kray - and why?  
*Mark Cardman, Manchester*  
Reggie and Ronnie were completely different and at the same time twins. I knew them since I was a teenager. I visit Reggie every so often at his prison with Marilyn - we go down and talk. It's a disgrace that he's still inside. He's more than paid his debt to society. He can sometimes go off the handle, but so would you if you spent over 30 years inside. You can molest a woman or child and get off these days with a suspended sentence. Reggie killed a guy and I would have done the same. Ronnie was different. He had dark moods but it was dreadful that he died inside. He didn't deserve that. In the end he was harmless. He was just a shell. Not the big gangster that I once knew.

What's the worst thing you've ever done? Do you ever have nightmares about it?  
*Caroline Hardley, Truro, Cornwall*  
Opening a safe and finding nothing was in it. Then finding out that millions were in the boss's secretary's handbag and you'd bumped into her in the street and she'd done the job before you.

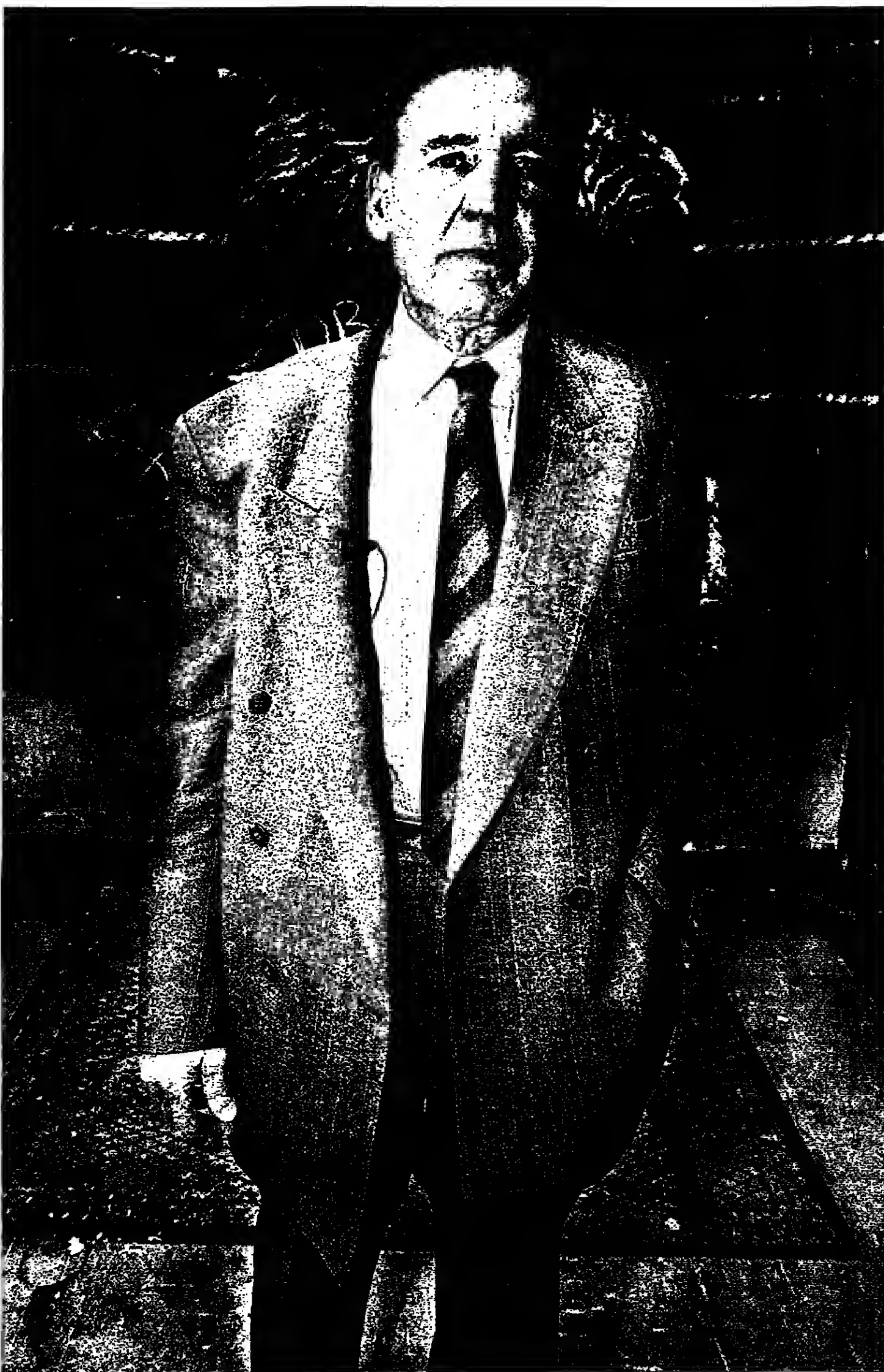
Which is easier, being an author or being a gangster?  
*Fiona Rice, Southampton*  
Author or gangster - I'm a performer in both spheres.

What would you like to do to your critics?  
*Nicola Harvey, Clapham, London*  
I have the edge over other authors or actors because critics have been very kind to me about what I write or do on stage or television. Critics don't disagree with me. I can't think why.

Do you dye your hair?  
*Roger Manners, Birmingham*  
Yes. It's all my own. I couldn't disguise myself to save my life. I'm as famous as Cilla Black.

I've heard that your wife is trying to make it as a singer. How is her career progressing and has she had any recording offers?  
*Simon Ellison, Bedford Green, London*  
Marilyn and I have been together a long time. She's my rock. She's a good singer. She appeared in my show in the West End. She's got style and she gets good notices. The *Guardian's* critic, reviewing one of my shows, was a bit frightened to say what he thought of me so he said, "It was refreshing to hear the charming voice of Marilyn Wisbey."

Imagine a clear jar containing one magic bean. This bean splits into two identical beans after one sec-



ond. These two beans then split in turn producing four beans. These then split to produce eight beans, etc... The jar takes exactly 60 seconds to fill up with the splitting beans. Can you tell me how full the jar is after 59 seconds?

*J. Swainston, London*  
It seems to me that you've been watching the opening of the film of *The Krays*, the bit with Billie Whitelaw talking about twins and saying all these bits and pieces about seeds and eggs and all that - and when I saw it I didn't understand a word of what it was about. And neither did Charlie Kray, who was an adviser on the picture.

Do you support the Independent on Sunday campaign to decriminalise cannabis?  
*Victoria Benstead, London*  
Of course I agree with decriminalising cannabis, although I've never smoked it myself or tried it as a cookie, as was once suggested.

Your former career must have been rather messy at times. Do you have any handy hints on how to get blood stains out of woollen clothes, such as jumpers?  
*Graham Paul, Edinburgh*  
Ask Scotland Yard.

If you returned to your home to find it had been burgled and "trashed", would you consider it the result of criminals just trying to earn a living or would you be outraged that this action was perpetrated against you and other normal members of society by the criminal classes?  
*David Deal, Oxford*  
I'd kill 'em.

Do you think yardies and triads have taken over the criminal underworld? What do you think of their criminal fraternities?  
*Dennis Wright, Stockwell, London*  
Yardies? It's a media thing. I can't say more.

Would you disapprove if a child of yours started getting in trouble with the police?  
*Mark Thompson, Bury St Edmunds*  
My kids? Who am I to be critical?

Would you say that, on the whole, crime pays?  
*Jemima Roberts, West London*  
Really only in the City of London. I can't see anybody making a few bob elsewhere.

Next week:  
**Jeffrey Archer**  
Please send any questions you would like to put to the author, peer of the realm, former Tory party chairman and potential mayoral candidate, to Your Questions, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; by fax on 0171-293 2183; or e-mail to [yourquestions@independent.co.uk](mailto:yourquestions@independent.co.uk) by lunchtime on Friday 26 June.



Ansafones, mobiles, pagers, email - so many channels for clandestine communication, and so many traps. By Anita Chaudhuri

## Beware the mechanics of modern adultery

OH TO have been born a Victorian gentlewoman. When it came to expressing the innermost secrets of the heart, all they had to worry about was finding a suitably delicate nib and perhaps a choice bottle of rose-scented ink. Now it seems that the old-fashioned love letter is dead and in its stead we must do battle with faxes, pagers, emails and call-waiting in order to conduct our affairs, be they innocent or clandestine.

In theory, technology should have made it easier for us to communicate. On the contrary, it looks as if it has real power to betray cheating hearts.

Take the beleaguered entertainer Shane Richie. He had been cheating on his wife, Coleen Nolan, for some time when she discovered his affair. How did she find out? Not by hiring a private detective, not by finding a billet-doux in his pocket, but - oh the humiliation! - by hearing a recording of a more-than-friendly phone conversation between himself and his 23-year-old *Grease* co-star Louise Tyler, which had been recorded by accident on the family answering machine.

It is possible for many top-of-the-range answering machines to record calls - the problem is that most of us never bother to read the instruction booklets beyond the "how to pick up your messages" stage, and therein lies the problem.

Mobile phones can be equally treacherous. Apart from the incriminating evidence of itemised phone bills, some models can be set up to divert calls to the phone at home.

Jim's wife, Rose, found out about his affair this way. "I came back and there was this message on the machine from a woman whose voice I didn't recognise. She was asking for the address of the restaurant where she and Jim were supposedly going to meet that night. Well, I couldn't believe it. As far as I knew, he

was going out to a corporate awards bash that night." Jim's mistress had thought she was leaving a message on his mobile - but he had forgotten to take his calls off divert.

It's not just mobile phones which cause havoc. With the advent of 1471, British Telecom has sparked off countless marital confrontations.

"I had a strong feeling that Ian was seeing someone," says Marie. "Often I'd answer the phone and the caller would hang up. When I dialled 1471, the message always said 'number withheld'. Now why on earth would anyone bother withholding their number?"

This encouraged her to snoop around in her partner's briefcase, and sure enough there was a whole catalogue of evidence on his credit-card bill: florists, restaurants she'd never been to, all the usual things.

Pagers can be problematic, too. "I was round at my girlfriend Jane's one night watch-



It was the answering machine that told Linda that Shane had been cheating

ing TV while she was at the gym," recalls Brian. "I was bored so I started fiddling around with her pager which she'd left on the table. Then I came across all these messages from someone called Tim. I'd never heard of him. When she got back I confronted her, and she admitted to having an affair."

The most ubiquitous accessory to adultery, though, has got to be electronic mail. Email can be a particularly risky method of communication because it's not as private as we think, and it can go wrong. Most of us who work in offices have fallen victim to the horror of sending inter-office email to the wrong person - usually the person the message is about.

Clearly email has great dramatic potential - Meg Ryan's next movie, *You've Got Mail*, is all about an email affair between two colleagues. Some how more intimate than a phone call yet still as immedi-

ate, emails can fuel the flames of a humdrum affair - and provide incriminating evidence for a wronged spouse.

For some inexplicable reason, most people tend not to delete email. "I was working at home and wanted to send a fax," says Anna. "But it wasn't working, so I decided to send an email from my husband's laptop. Imagine my surprise when I opened the email programme and there were all these messages from this one woman. I couldn't resist having a look, but I really wish I hadn't, they were very steamy. I was devastated. It was such a horrible way to find out."

The columnist Nicola Davis, who discovered details of her husband's affair from an itemised phone bill, believes that most of us already know the truth before we find the evidence of infidelity.

"Most of us do smell a rat under the floorboards long before we see the computer

print-out," she observes. "I knew my husband was having an affair. But when I saw the itemised bill, it kind of shocked me because it created a vivid picture of what had been going on. He'd been phoning this woman on Sunday nights when he was supposed to be locked in his study handling the household bills. So the calls were made in funny, five-minute bites, presumably snatched between the trips I was making up and down the stairs with the washing."

Davis believes that adulterous partners like Shane Richie give themselves away because hi-tech gizmos don't always behave the way we expect them to. "Technology betrays us because it often doesn't work," she observes.

Anyone foolish enough to be contemplating an adulterous affair might bear this in mind - you'd be well advised to read the instruction manual through to the bitter end.



# The last of the gentleman publishers

Beckett, Burroughs, Breton: John Calder printed authors no one else dared touch. Now he's taking on the Government. By Barèt Magarian

For the past half-century John Calder's name has been synonymous with literary excellence. He began in 1949, publishing foreign and political titles, and acquiring a reputation for taking books that others wouldn't go near.

Things took off in 1963 when he published Henry Miller's sexually explicit *Tropic of Cancer*. It sold 40,000 and Calder was able to print all the manuscripts that had until then been gathering dust. During the Sixties he joined forces with Marion Boyars, and together they published the most interesting fiction and drama around: Borges, Artaud, Burroughs, Celine, Pasolini, Miller, Ionesco, Beckett, Breton, Pirandello. Calder was the first to introduce Britain to the practitioners of the nouveau roman, principally Claude Simon, Alain Robbe-Grillet and Nathalie Sarraute. Over the years he has had 18 Nobel prize winners on his list, more than any other publisher.

Next year will mark his 50th year in publishing. But times are hard. He has managed to retain a distinguished set of writers, most notably Samuel Beckett, Celine, and Howard Barker, but he lost many when he was unable to keep up on royalty payments. This was as a direct result of the loss of his Arts Council grant in 1983. Marguerite Duras, Henry Miller, and William Burroughs were all plucked up by other publishers.

As we talk in his London office his determined gaze and clipped accent create an air of stoicism. "The then literature committee of the Arts Council, under the Conservatives, was taken over by people who didn't know anything about serious literature. They said the books we published were no longer of any interest, even though in 1985 Claude Simon won the Nobel Prize, Howard Barker the Italia Prize for best radio play and Barbara Wright the Scott

Moncrieff prize for best translation." Calder Publications now finds itself in a unique position as the last of the independent publishers. This means that it isn't owned by anyone else, and does not have to answer to anyone else. "We are also one of the few publishers that still carries the flag for the English language, which is in great danger of disappearing under the American vernacular, because British books are increasingly being edited by American editors."

John Calder's activities are myriad. He is not only a publisher, but an editor, translator, journalist and critic (a book on Beckett's philosophy is due later this year). In addition, he has just kick-started a national campaign to draw attention to the arts in this country.

"Societies without the arts lack the critical edge that enables people to see through bad administrators and governments, and as a result they are always under demagogues and dictators."

"We need to make the Government realise the importance of the arts, which is why I'm involved in a National Rally for the Arts, which will take place on 1 and 2 May 1999 in Hyde Park."

"We're hoping to get as many as a million people to go, when there will be free entertainment by theatre companies, bands, orchestras, artists of every kind."

"We want to get the Government positively on the side of the arts, and get more funding for them. No country in Europe has the arts at such a low level as they are in this country. And I think Tony Blair will have a sort of miraculous conversion when he realises he'll be losing votes if he doesn't start to do something."

The conversation shifts from a moral agenda to an anecdotal one. I ask him about Beckett, whom he met in the 1950s, gaining the rights to his fiction when Faber refused to take it, considering it too difficult.



John Calder, publisher, journalist, critic, is playing a part in organising next May's National Rally for the Arts

Nicola Kurtz

"Beckett was actually a very simple person in almost every way. He got on well with any normal, natural person but he couldn't stand lion hunters. He was really the ideal author, extremely punctilious, and extremely loyal. He had a very caustic wit. I remember going to Lord's with him and the critic Harold Hobson. Hobson said: 'On a day like this you feel glad to be alive.' There was a pause and then Beckett said: 'Well, I wouldn't go as far as that.'"

What do you think of literary fiction today? "I'm sure there are very good things being written, even getting published, but the problem is that they aren't getting reviewed."

Even when you get a literary editor who would like to review serious books he's not allowed to. His job depends on getting reviews of topical books. Anything about Princess Diana, for example, will get reviewed. But serious books by serious writers have great difficulty in getting noticed. And editors at publishing houses are now completely under the thumb of the management, which is accountant-controlled. For an editor to discover a new, exciting author will not do with an editorial board dominated by accountants who only want to know how many copies the books sell."

Calder thinks that we may see

more independent publishers starting up to counter this. One hopes that someone with his determination and willingness to take risks will come along.

This determination extends to acting as his own representative with the booksellers. This, combined with going to conferences, working in his Paris and London offices, and writing, adds up to a marathon 100-hour working week for him.

But why can't he get someone else to sell the books?

"None of the reps was willing to find out what the books were about. I found I achieved more in a day

than they did in three months."

What about the future of the list? "I've no more idea of the future of the list than I have about my own future. I would like to think that someone would come along and carry it on, someone willing to put in the dedication, to work that 100 hours for extremely little return."

John Calder turned 71 this year.

In France he has been made a chevalier twice. In Britain he has received no public honours. He is neither surprised nor dismayed by this. But for those who care about serious literature his career embodies the defiant intelligence and excellence that is its hallmark.

## The Lied of the pack

CLASSICAL  
SIMON KEENLYSIDE  
WIGMORE HALL  
LONDON

SIMON KEENLYSIDE must be the only singer to let his pianist, Malcolm Martineau, walk on stage first. But then he's not your preening star - he's an uncommonly subtle and, at the same time, a very sincere musician, for whom the song really is the thing. When his first solo CD came out a few years ago, the highly experienced critic of *The Gramophone* called him the finest British interpreter of Schubert, and in 1995 *The Critics Circle* voted him Singer of the Year.

It has taken the public a little while to catch up with him, despite Keenlyside's long list of distinguished roles in the world's leading opera houses. Saturday night's recital was not quite sold out, but the reception was tumultuous.

Keenlyside's programme showed him in almost as many lights as possible, though most of the songs were composed at the end of the 19th century. His gorgeously warm baritone is ideally suited to German Lied, and at the end of the evening, I would have chosen to take home with me his singing of Strauss's "Traum durch die Dämmerung" - a miracle of deep, understated rapture. Yet, though he's not temperamentally a blusterer, he shouted spring in "Herr Leoz", with as much ringing swagger as the best of them, and rounded off "Cradle" with real steel in the voice.

Over the years, Keenlyside has freed up his acting skills a good deal, and recently, at the Barbican, he showed what a good mover he is in the title role of Monteverdi's *Orfeo*. Four songs from Mahler's *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* drew from him, at one extreme (in "Der Schildwache Nachtlied"), the most probing, melancholic reflections, and at the other, a wonderful gift for sardonic mimicry in the song contest between a cuckoo and a nightingale judged by a donkey ("Lob des hohen Verstandes").

Perhaps, in songs by Debussy, Keenlyside's diction did not exactly dance on his lips - I found a lot of the words unclear, though he did lighten his voice, and contrasted half and full tone almost to excess.

Which was a far cry from the four songs of his final group, by Tosti. Beautifully written for the voice, they must be a singer's dream, and no doubt it's tempting to overdo their ardour.

Keenlyside took their effusiveness to just the right degree, so that their musical fluency could make its effect without mannerism.

ADRIAN JACK

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## Drumming their way out of a plastic bag

### JAZZ

ENSEMBLE BASH  
SPITALFIELDS FESTIVAL  
LONDON

LIKE A great string quartet or jazz group, the four percussionists of Ensemble Bash seem to have developed that almost telepathic form of ensemble communication, an empathy that allows them to play a wide range of genres with accuracy and gusto.

But unlike the Modern Jazz Quartet or Kronos, they don't have an ensemble "sound". The nature of their calling means that each member plays at least a dozen different instruments - tuned and otherwise - from all over the world. What makes Ensemble Bash distinctive is their way of doing things, plus a variable but expanding repertoire of percussion quartet pieces they have built up through commissions and adaptations.

The most satisfying music in their concert for the Spitalfields Festival came from pieces and idioms they have been playing for some time. The single-set concert opened and closed with new arrangements of African music that incorporate several gylé, big Ghanaian xylophones that dominated the stage. For these pieces, ensemble regulars Richard Benjafield, Chris Bramick, Stephen Hiscock and Andrew Martin

were augmented by percussionist/composers Paulinus Bodie and Mario Delekuuroh. The resulting sextet, a bigger Bash, produced a dense, exciting ensemble sound with timbres that shifted and developed slowly over ten or fifteen-minute stretches, the musicians moving from instrument to instrument with evident ease and enjoyment.

Other core repertoire favourites included Benjafield's clever arrangements of a handful of Chick Corea's *Children's Songs* used as punctuation - short, quiet interludes between the longer works.

Yet the two big new pieces, heralded as "major world premieres", were disappointing: maybe they needed more "playing in" to do justice to their composers' intentions. Where jazz and rock groups develop work in progress on the road, and theatre companies do out-of-town previews for plays and musicals, contemporary "classical" concerts tend to make a

big deal about the first performance - which often turns out to be the last.

I hope this is not the case for *The Art of Concealment* by Christopher Fox or for *Nocturno y Togue*, by Javier Alvarez. Fox's was one of Ensemble Bash's "carrier bag" commissions for instruments that can be carried to the gig (without the fuss of big trucks and difficult "get-ins" that bedevil percussionists).

The episodic structure of the piece, which involved instruments hidden in coat pockets, waistcoat pockets and plastic bags with manuscript paper concealed in carefully chosen books, resulted in a kind of deadpan music theatre of the absurd. Fox's best music has a knack of catching the listener by surprise, hovering in the space between captivating miniature and ambitious magnum opus, but this was neither.

Alvarez's piece, for two tenor steel pans and two marimbas, produced some lovely washes of sound, blurred tonalities and a kind of beat haze of interacting system patterns formed from the intriguing combination of instruments, in which the sour tones of the steel drums dominated the sweet timbres of the marimbas.

And however adventurous Ensemble Bash's programme might be, they had the commercial nous to include at least one classic work by a dead composer.

Second Construction, by John Cage, was a highlight of the concert, given an appropriately sensitive and reverent performance in the beautiful ambience of Christ Church.

JOHN L. WALTERS

## This charming man

### MUSIC

JOSE FELICIANO  
JAZZ CAFE  
LONDON



Jose Feliciano woos the Jazz Café crowd Neville Elder

HALF THE charm of the night's key number is that it's a request you don't necessarily expect a chap like Jose Feliciano to make.

It's one thing for Jim Morrison to gyrate and bellow with his zip and arrogant demand that a woman light his fire; quite another when the words are murmured as a loving invitation. *Light My Fire* works as well, if not better, when it comes from Feliciano, which is probably why it got to number one in 1968, just months after the Doors reached that spot with their organ-heavy original. Tonight, Feliciano delivers it with intense concentration, caressing his guitar as if it were his wife and leading men helplessly to caress their girlfriends.

He has, of course, more strings than this to his acoustic. Born blind in 1945, one of 11 brothers, Feliciano moved with his family from Puerto Rico to Harlem at the age of five; his first musical experience was accompanying his uncle's singing by drumming on a biscuit tin. He learned the accordion, then, aged eight, picked up a guitar and taught himself to play by practising for up to 14 hours a day. "Being blind, I had to concentrate on one thing," he has said. "And once I found that thing, I had to be better than good at it."

The final impetus, if needed, was when his father lost his job, and Feliciano took his seductive Latin-American rhythm and blues to the coffee houses of Greenwich Village. Since then,

he's sold more than 90 million records, won handfuls of Grammys and played alongside Joni Mitchell, the Grateful Dead and Chuck Berry.

Though he's never stopped touring, and works to a killer schedule, he's back in vogue because his bluesy tenor and intimate flamenco-style guitar have touched a nerve with jazz-funk clubbers. But that means little to Feliciano, whose live show can veer from the tender beauty of the songs he sings in Spanish to certain ill-advised MOR covers. Some of his choices stray perilously close to easy listening hut, at 53, Feliciano isn't here to reinvent

himself for the club generation, and it would probably be a bad idea if he tried.

A slight man, who has to be led carefully down the venue's steep steps to the stage, he launches into a steamy "Feel Like Making Love", a sparkling "Dance With Me", and a psychedelic "Sunshine of Your Love". The aces he holds are his eloquent guitar playing and a voice that's both coaxing and vulnerable. It's wooing, yet achingly uncertain, and this, I think, is just where we came in.

GLYN BROWN

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# A journey to the dark side

Paula Vogel thinks paedophilia lurks in us all, and her new play is intended to expose it. By Marianne Brace

Paula Vogel leans forward and fixes her gaze on me. "The phrase 'family values' just makes my hair curl," she says, pronouncing each word slowly, deliberately. "In Russia, the term for adult is aunt or uncle - everyone is a member of the family. In the United States, you'll let the whole community go burn in hell, so long as your family is taken care of. It's that return to the Republican values of the 1950s. I want to say, 'So, let's look at who is sitting around the kitchen table then.'"



'How I Learned To Drive'

Sitting around the table in *How I Learned to Drive*, Vogel's latest play is L1 Bit's "cracker" (redneck) family from rural Maryland. Everyone gets nicknamed after their genitalia and the preferred topic of conversation is L1 Bit's enormous breasts. Grandma was married at 15 still believing in Santa Claus. Mama believes men are only after one thing. Teenage L1 Bit is learning to "drink like a man", and to "drive with power and assurance". She's also being sexually molested by her charming, alcoholic Uncle Peck.

*How I Learned to Drive* won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, a film version is being mooted with the Australian Fred Schepisi (*Plenty*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *The Chant of Jimmy Blacksmith*) as director, and now a new production is opening at The Donmar Warehouse. Vogel, author of 22 plays and a lecturer in drama at Brown University, is no stranger to awards. The first play she wrote, at the age of 24, won a national competition. Her *Baltimore Waltz* scooped an Obie.

What made Vogel choose paedophilia as a subject? Hasn't it been done to death? Vogel, grey-haired and bespectacled, is nodding. "I'm very fond of a theorist by the name of Victor Shklovsky from whom Bertolt Brecht ripped off the alienation effect. Shklovsky says the purpose of art is to make us notice what is so close to us, so that it's familiar, and then to estrange it and make us look again. You can't have estrangement unless it's a very well-trod area."

But Vogel isn't hiking down the usual path. L1 Bit is preyed upon, yet

there's also a degree of consent. "I wanted to write a balancing act, to be empathic in a way that perhaps hadn't been done before." Peck's seduction isn't strictly incest - he's an uncle by marriage. The character abuses his niece yet remains sympathetic. "Peck quite won my heart. I do find him attractive," says Vogel cheerfully. "It wouldn't work if he didn't have charm. I want people to say, 'He's gorgeous'."

The idea for the play began over 20 years ago with "a rather obsessive reading and re-reading of Nabokov's *Lolita* - an absolutely favourite book of mine." Vogel discovered the novel in her first year at Cornell University. "I found it shocking and amazing reading it at the height of my rabid feminism. To read that book and completely empathise with Humbert Humbert is a remarkable thing."

Negative empathy, or being drawn to the dark side, is something Vogel likes in theatre. "But I don't think America has an easy time with showing the dark side and accepting it. There's a great deal of resistance to negative empathy. Americans don't want to think about the past, about death, about the ephemeral."

Vogel's writing has been likened to Sam Shepard's. "American writers seem obsessed with the family. We see the family as a metaphor for outside political concerns," says Vogel. But she considers herself in the tradition of British playwrights like David Hare and Harold Pinter. There's a strong anti-realist streak in her work.



Paula Vogel embraces the dark side: 'I am concerned with the paedophile in every one of us,' she says

Nicola Kurtz

In *How I Learned to Drive*, she not only uses alienation techniques but has a Greek chorus, too.

We first meet uncle and niece dallying behind the dashboard when the girl is 17. As the play scrolls backwards L1 Bit gets younger and younger, 13 when her uncle photographs her for Playboy, 11 when he first fondles her. By scrambling the chronology, Vogel makes us constantly readjust to what is happening.

"The original tag-line in my head was a tribute to Hillary Clinton's book *It Takes a Village to Raise a Child*. I wanted it to be *It Takes a Village to Molest a Child*," Vogel smiles broadly. Not only do L1 Bit's family

intuit and therefore collide in the affair but, on a broader scale, Vogel believes we should all think about what we're prepared to condone. "At what age are we projecting sexuality on to young boys and girls? I think we're cultural participants to some extent in lowering that age."

"I am really concerned with where we find the paedophile in each and everyone of us," she says, smiling benignly over the tops of her glasses.

"I think we're trained to sexualise children and that's repellent and frightening to me. I was writing in this Calvin Klein barrage of ads and something about the driving metaphor occurred to me. Most of us

learn to drive at an age of sexual adolescence." Paedophiles rely on entrapment. Peck offers his niece something forbidden - he allows her to drive when she is under age. One forbidden thing leads to another.

Vogel says she felt uneasy while writing the play. "One of the things I wanted to write about was a response to what I call cultural victimisation," she says. "I feel in the United States there's been this heightened victimisation. Therapy is a wonderful thing. But there is also a talk show mentality in which one is encouraged to wallow in it. In order to move on you can't demonise the people who've hurt you.

You've also got to see how you yourself might be responsible."

But that's not to lose sight of Peck's agenda. Vogel gives us a chilling reminder in a scene where uncle and nephew are fishing together. The boy, seeing the dying fish, begins to cry. Peck comforts him, suggests going to the tree house to share a beer. It will be their secret.

Vogel included the scene because, "in the United States, paedophilia has been attached to gay men. Homosexuality has been demonised. But statistics show that it is usually married men, often pillars of the community, and the love object is children, not necessarily male or female."

## 'LOLITA' AND AFTER

*Lolita*, now back on screen in Adrian Lyne's new version, was the template. "All at once I knew I could kiss her throat or the wick of her mouth with perfect impunity. I knew she would let me do so, and even close her eyes as Hollywood teaches," said Humbert Humbert.

Last year Kathryn Harrison confessed all the way to the bank with her book *The Kiss*, an account of her affair with her father. Harrison broke the ultimate taboo - consensual incest.

King Lear and his daughters inspired Jane Smiley's novel, and now the film, of *A Thousand Acres*. The action is transplanted to the rural Midwest. Farmer Larry Cook is king of all he surveys: his word is law, including his requirement that his daughters give him sexual gratification.



According to Vogel, *How I Learned to Drive* isn't, however, just a play about paedophilia, it's also about empowerment. "Peck teaches L1 Bit how to drive. He gives her confidence - and the power to control and destroy him. It's a play about the gifts we receive from the people that hurt us." As the play ends we see grown up L1 Bit in her own car. Peck's ghost lingers. The stage directions tell us they are happy to be going for a long drive together. The journey isn't over but at least L1 Bit's behind the wheel.

Donmar Warehouse, London WC2 (0171-369 1732), booking to 8 August

## A place that pushes your buttons

No egos, no tantrums. The Cabaret Mechanical

Theatre sounds like directors' heaven. By David Wilson

THIS is peculiar. A man-eating tiger grinds the last vestiges of flavour from a victim's braces. An athlete with the face of a Jesus pita skips floppy on the edge of collapse. A cat laps at a splatter of poisoned milk then keels over, while a piano playing itself deliciously goes on.

Welcome to the Cabaret Mechanical Theatre. Based in a Covent Garden cellar, its actors are push-button automata (objects that mimic the actions of living things). Since automata pretty much amount for their movements I feel compelled to push every button and witness each character's furiously obsessive performance.

The theatre was founded by a group of Falmouth Art College students in the late Seventies. It seems a far cry from the bishonic arts, and automata-maker Aidan Lawrence admits it is partly a send-up.

Like most of the artists represented, Lawrence got into automata via Lego. He sees the

Cabaret Theatre as a haven of wit, intelligence and individuality in an increasingly homogeneous and mass-produced world.

It's also an exploration of absurdity. A mood exacerbated by the jangling piano. The poor automata are remorselessly thwarted in their efforts to grab the petty items they crave - be it an ant or a carrot.

But they refuse to stop trying. Which calls to mind. Tantalus, trapped in Hades, eternally reaching for the fruit that hangs within his grasp, then rises out of reach.

Perhaps the most hopeless automaton of all is the skin-head star of "Job Opportunities". Rigid, he stares at the Beano. With his free hand, periodically, he lifts the lid from a covered green banana so it can ripen. The reality of Welfare to Work?

It's so grim it's funny - I keep catching myself laughing out loud. I am enchanted by the pair of Harpies extracting the tough

Mediterranean worm which, according to the writing on a tablet, constituted their staple diet. Apparently, "Harpies can be distinguished from sirens by observing their working methods: the sirens' *modus operandi* consisted in luring seafarers to their doom whereas Harpies made housecalls."

The lunacy absorbs me for a vibrant, unsettling hour. Then I decide to consult an oracle. Following written commandments, I lick the back of my hand then press my arm on the shrine worktop.

I'd meant to ask the meaning of life. But confronted with the Oracle's bald staring face and mechanical claw, I just mumble: "Anybody home?" Promptly the Oracle stamps my hand with a dry ink pad then pours sand on top - it slides off.

No message shows up. So I ring Elvis: pickled in a fish tank. The operator connects me. A long pause. Then I ask



Welcome to the cabaret, where all the performers are automata

Emma Boom

what went wrong into the silence. All Elvis does is sing dreamily and almost manically. Before I can think of the name of the song, the line goes dead. The King's exposed heart (or it is a poisoned kidney?) spins round and reveals the word "Mum".

I don't quite get it. With a sense of trepidation I resort to

Larry's Love Line, which essentially consists of a pink phone. As I lift the receiver it begins to glow. Then I hear a voice like that of Tom Waits and Barry White all rolled into one. It advises "You got... to get her wobbly... like a jelly." The receiver rattles.

The voice continues: "You got to bloooow on her." A jet of

air spurts into my ear. I stare at the receiver while in the background, like the dumb machines' voice, the piano jabbars dementedly on.

The Mechanical Theatre make-your-own automata manual is out now. To order and for more information on the theatre call 0171 379 1961.

## The wheel of misfortune

### REVIEW

WORKING LEGS  
TRAVERSE THEATRE  
EDINBURGH/TOURING

SUBTITLED *A Play for People Without Them*, this satirical comedy by the oddball Scottish author Alasdair Gray - winner of the 1993 Whitbread Prize for *Poor Things* - is his first theatrical writing since the days of the last Labour administration. In many ways, unfortunately, you can tell the ghost of Seventies agit-prop looms large and lumbering.

The piece was commissioned by Birds of Paradise, a Glasgow-based company that creates opportunities for actors with physical disabilities, and perhaps their and Gray's primary mistake was to zero in on the theme of disability itself. Gray posits a world where the able-bodied are a marginalised minority, pitied, reviled and

discriminated against by the wheelchair-using majority, with all facilities designed to accommodate those on wheels, rather than on "working legs".

Following a near-fatal road crash, hapless wage-slave Able McCann finds himself consigned to an ambulatory existence - unable to adapt back to life in a wheelchair, he is registered as "hypermobile" with the social welfare department. Despite finding romance with a colleague, government cuts and her parents' prejudiced

disapproval soon threaten his new-found happiness.

Clearly, it provides for plenty of inversion comedy: the able-bodied contending with low doors and ceilings, and never having anywhere to sit; Able standing in a bar trying vainly to get served, being palmed off with the excuse that "it's not easy to see people whose heads aren't at normal height". What it doesn't provide for is narrative or character development.

The effect might have been softened had the writing displayed more of Gray's signature wit and quirky flourish, but it's in the frequently wooden, awkwardly fashioned dialogue that those Seventies spectres are to be seen. Strangely, much of the jibing at DSS and New Labour

is both heavy-handed and glib. The cast of 10, in roles (mostly two or three each) that are little more than ciphers, can hardly hope to shine, though some performances muster life, notably Kevin Howell, juggling five parts, and Ernie Kyle as Able's prospective father-in-law. But there's little they can do to salvage this creaky dramatic vessel, however laudable Gray's aim that it "should be actable by as many disabled folk as possible".

The upshot is to box in, not highlight, the company's skills and the implicit message.

SUE WILSON

At the James Arnott Theatre, Glasgow, 24-27 June. Bookings 0141-581 5311.

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## CLOTHES LINE



Paul Mussey

### OUT OF THE CLOSET

SAMANTHA NORMAN, ROVING TV PRESENTER AND SELF-CONFESED SHOPAHOLIC, OPENS THE DOORS ON HER WARDROBE...

MY WARDROBE is a complete mess. I love my clothes, but for some reason I feel the need to throw them around a lot - probably because I've got so many, there's nowhere to put them all. As you can guess, I shop a lot. In fact, it has become a compulsion. As a TV presenter, you are judged by what you look like, and I think that, coupled with my love of dressing up and my Dad (Barry Norman), who is also a shopaholic, has led to my addiction. My general rule is to wear white in summer and black in winter, but at the moment I am wearing a sugar pink cardigan a lot which I bought at Etam. The cardie, together with my Dolce Gabanna sunglasses - which will have to be surgically removed from my head soon - and a pair of high Gina shoes, are my favourite things at the moment. I think my worst ever buy was an Idol dress I wore to the BAFTA Awards last year. I was eight months pregnant at the

time, and I thought it would look good over my bump. It did, but to pay £300 for a dress you are only going to wear once, is a fortune. For work, I buy a lot of Strenesse suits. They make me feel confident. M&S I don't like so much. Their colours don't suit me, but I do like Morgan. It's so sexy, and good for staple items. I also shop at Hype DF and Kookai for bits and bobs. I'd say my overall style is eclectic but particular. There are a few items in my wardrobe that don't fit that description. Both were presents from my parents and have great sentimental value. Dad bought me a black leather mini-skirt when I was 16 that I still have, and mum knitted me a jumper with the face of my pony on it. I also have a red sun-dress I've had for ten years, which I still wear. If I were to offer any fashion advice it would be to buy kids clothes. There's no VAT on them, so they're a lot cheaper.

MELANIE RICKEY

### HOT THING

THE HUSSEIN CHALAYAN SAMPLE SALE  
COVENT GARDEN



Chris Moore

CHECK THE bank account for funds, ask for an overdraft, or borrow money from your mum. All day tomorrow, Friday and Saturday, British designer Hussein Chalayan is holding a unique sale of his clothes. It is not a sample sale in the traditional sense: they usually offer second-line items, clothes, shoes and accessories, used in seasonal catwalk shows or left over from previous seasons. This sale offers a comprehensive selection from his current collection - the clothes available in the shops now - at prices that will quicken the pulse of his legion of fans, and excite lovers of avant-garde British fashion.

A sneak preview revealed day-wear pieces in white and navy linen, including skirt front trousers, wide leg trousers, a Mongolian style jacket and a few jersey dresses with his signature spirograph print, and knits but no evening wear. The cape-sleeved jacket and pleated skirt shown above, for example, would have cost £325 from a boutique, but it will be £250 all-in from the sale. Interested? If you are, bear in mind the average price for a jacket is £170, a skirt £70 and a pair of trousers about £85. These prices, while hardly a snip, are not to be sniffed at; I looked in at French Connection on Saturday and there was, as usual, some lovely things to buy, in particular a gorgeous pleated skirt for £80. I nearly bought it, but the possibility of having a Hussein Chalayan pleated skirt for £70 was infinitely more appealing, and frankly, an opportunity not to be missed.

MELANIE RICKEY

Hussein Chalayan, Room B, 1st Floor Rear, 71 Endell Street, Covent Garden London WC2  
Enquiries: 0171 379 5236  
Thursday from 10 am to 7 pm  
Friday from 10 am to 6 pm  
Saturday from 11 am to 4 pm

### FASHION TYPES

The Fashion P.B.



Andrew Lamb

Above: the Miss Fleur team and their children, dressed in their mothers' bohemian designs. Below: Sarah Hiscox from Utiliti, with her son

# Mother knows best

Buying your children clothes can be hard on your wallet and even harder on your wardrobe. But three British mothers have designs to change all that. By Jessica Stein

DESIGNER KIDSWEAR does not have to mean DKNY or Calvin Klein - clothes that are often just over-priced versions of basics from Gap. But do not despair: there is an alternative to both designer logos and the high street's obsession with Sporty Spice. Three independent British companies are making clothes that hug both you and your child will really, really want.

Utiliti, Rachel Riley and Miss Fleur are all run by mothers who work from home, manufacturing their clothes on a small scale and selling through chic, modern boutiques. Not only are you buying a unique piece of organic quality clothing: you are buying into part of a homegrown lifestyle as well.

Sarah Hiscox, of the Utiliti label, started designing children's clothes about a year and a half ago. "I've got a little boy of three and I was very frustrated with the clothes that were available for him," she says. "You either had Gap, which is very preppy American, Hennes, which is quite tacky, or Paul Smith, which is too expensive."

Sarah sells her clean, simple, Eastern-modern, denim clothing at The Cross near London's Holland Park. The Mickey Mouse free zone of Utiliti was established after a brief spell with ex-model Jenny Howarth when Sarah's company, then known as Howarth Hiscox, became Utiliti.

Hiscox's concept was simple and clever: to design matching clothes for mothers and children. The collection starts at around £18 for a baby hat to £40 for a pair of children's trousers. "I wanted clothes that I would wear but shrunk in size," she explains. Two seasons on, her modernist, no-frills clothes for 0-8 year olds and adults - denim Nehru jackets, combat trousers and simple quality hand knitted sweaters - have caused a flurry among celebrity mothers, including Nicole Kidman, Paula Yates, Jade Jagger and Yasmin Le Bon.

Despite having already been contacted by Harrods, Sarah is for the moment staying manageably small. She is now in partnership with former fashion coordinator for Macys in San Francisco, Kathleen Bolwell, and the two have plans to produce a clean, modern, mail-order catalogue by Christmas.

Down in Knightsbridge, former model Rachel Riley has set up another indie kid haven. She started off by selling her self-made, traditional children's clothes by mail-order. Five years on, she has recently opened a shop selling both children's and ladieswear in London's new boutique location, Pont Street.

"I would never have dared set up a shop without having had a regular clientele," says Rachel. "I think catalogues are really practical but



you need to see and touch the clothes to see the quality of the fabrics and manufacturing."

Rachel commutes to London three times a week from her home in The Loire Valley. Her photographer husband shoots their catalogues and postcards which feature Rachel and their three children. "Working from home is extremely practical for women like me with young children," she says. "It doesn't mean to say because you manufacture you have to go off to Hong Kong or China or India and have vast quantities of things made up. There's another way of doing it on a smaller scale."

The Rachel Riley selection of traditional clothes is not run of the mill. Pyjamas come with leopard

print piping and matching leopard print slippers and embroidered organdy dresses are lined with white muslin. She has everything, from Liberty print smock dresses to Jelly, all sold beautifully packaged with a bag of sugared almonds tossed in for that extra something.

"We are not harking back to some kind of 'lost era', but there are a whole load of classics, that unless you can do them better, they're probably not worth changing at all. We are trying to do something traditional but interesting as well," she says.

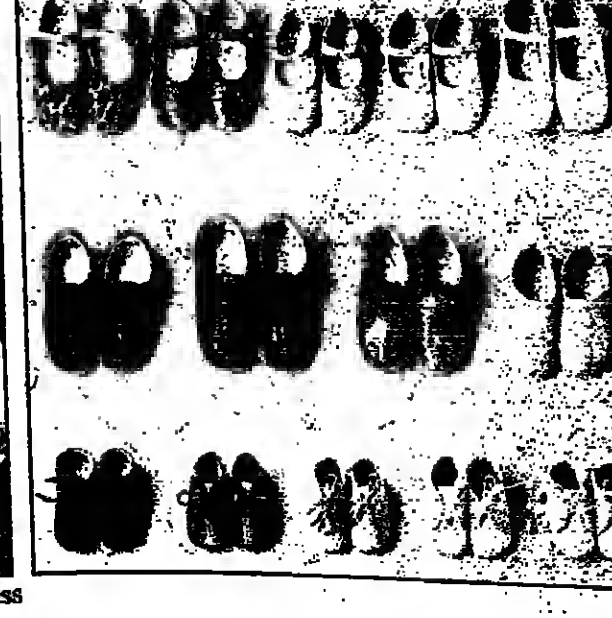
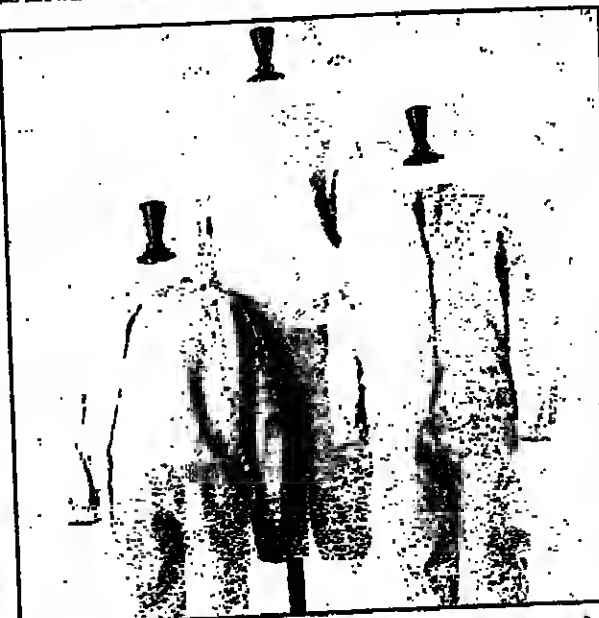
For something a bit more bohemian, Miss Fleur is like the ultra-hip South Kensington label, Voyage, but for 2-8 year olds. The label is run by four women: Tiphaine de Lussy, Natascha Radcliffe-Thomas, Carolyn Clewer and former stylist Carole McIlwain. "We didn't want to go back to full-time jobs with mad hours. We wanted to be in charge of our time and be able to look after our kids," says former Royal College fashion graduate Tiphaine, who also happens to be married to Dinos Chapman. She dreamt up the concept with Natascha two years ago. "We felt that there was a gap in the market for what we wanted to do, which was partywear. We began to make these dresses, mixing up colours and fabrics but keeping the

silhouette simple." Everything is tried out on their kids, who also modelled at Miss Fleur's first fashion show at Alternative Fashion Week in March 1997. This season's collection is Chinese-inspired, with Tiger Lily dresses in two-tone silk. For next winter, the theme is "Princess", with medieval shaped dresses in denim and silk. "We always look for quirky concepts, never the obvious," says Tiphaine.

Miss Fleur is available at The Cross, as well as Small Talk in Nottingham. At the moment they're content to manufacture and market their transfer print T-shirts and satin make-up bags themselves on a small scale.

Rachel Riley, 14 Pont Street, London SW1, mail order and enquiries 0171-259 5963. Prices from: slippers, £28; cotton dress, £40; embroidered organdy dress, £175. Utiliti, available from The Cross, 141 Portland Road, London W11, enquiries 0171-721 6760. Prices from: knitted hat, £18; denim trousers, £40; knitted jacket, £45.

Miss Fleur, available from The Cross, as before and Small Talk, 102A Parliament Street, Nottingham, enquiries 0115-948 1303. Prices from: Chinese turquoise dress, £50; yellow party dress with pink net underskirt, £60.



Summer collection by Rachel Riley. Prices range from £28 for slippers to £175 for an embroidered organdy dress



# Beauty school drop out

Pull on those pedal pushers: *Grease* is at the cinema and the Fifties are back. By Tamsin Blanchard. Photographs by Jon Mortimer

**G**rease is the word and by the time the movie is re-released on the big screen in July – the look, too. Every so often, fashion returns to the style of the Fifties. John Galiano did it with his pin-up collection in the summer of 1995 when he had his models wearing bustiers and prom dresses draped over candy-coloured Chevrolet. Versace did baby-coloured

bobby socks and satin pencil skirts. Dries Van Noten had a season when he moved away completely from his usual ethnic inspiration and designed a collection of prim pencil skirts and dresses with big skirts.

The Fifties draws designers to itself like a magnet, attracted to the movie-star glamour, poring over pictures of Marilyn Monroe, Grace Kelly and Doris Day. They hark back to the glory days of Christian

Dior, Balenciaga and Givenchy. They are also fascinated by the birth of the teenager; at the end of the Fifties, kids stopped dressing as mini-replicas of their parents and adopted a style of their own. The Fifties is the one decade that never really goes away; it is always on the brink of revival, and an endless source of inspiration, from Hollywood to Elvis. This summer is no exception. Everywhere I look, I see pedal push-

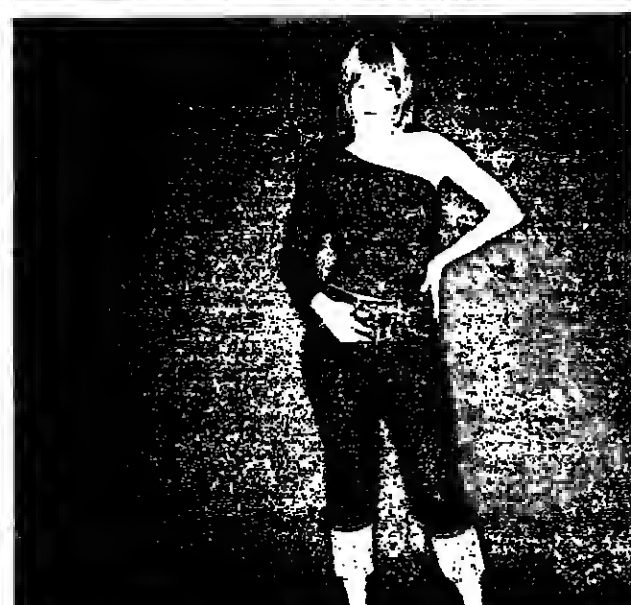
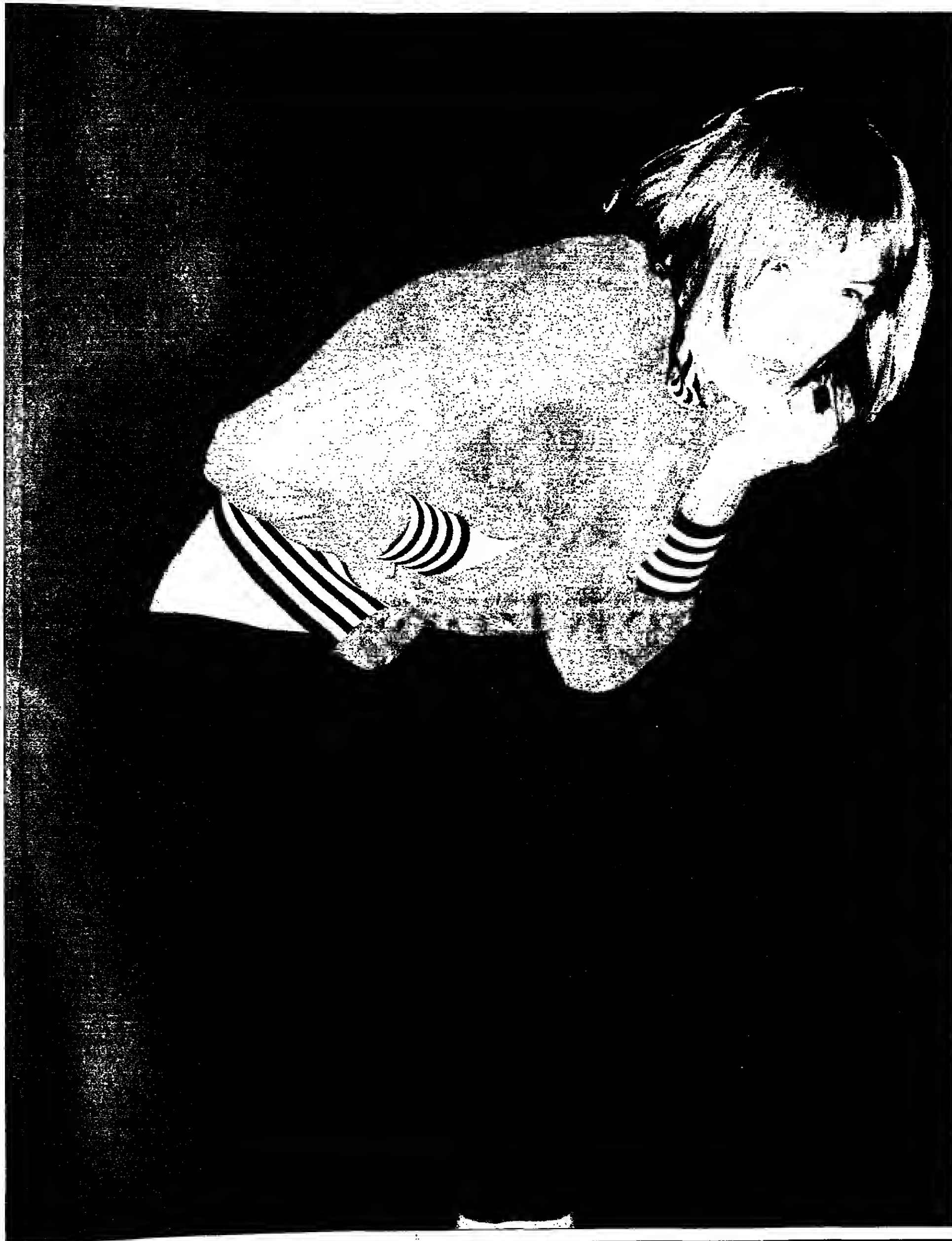
ers, pastel colours, and denim. Instead of the decade's grown up couture, this season's look stems from western-style, bubble-gum-chewing prom queens and American teeny boppers. It's not just a Fifties revival; it is a Fiorucci revival. The Italian company was in its heyday in the Seventies when the King's Road store repackaged the Fifties in its own bright, brash and trashy style. These days, you have to go to Milan for the

Fiorucci experience. But the look has been pillaged by stores such as French Connection who are selling out of their denim stretch drainpipe pedal pushers (like the ones that used to require the help of a coat hanger and an extra pair of hands to pull the zip up, before Fiorucci came up with the bright idea of stretch) faster than they can stock them. *Grease* was first released in 1978 when the Fifties were only just ripe

for revival. Twenty years later, the movie's style – a pastiche of the original high-school love stories of *West Side Story*, *Rebel Without a Cause* and *American Graffiti* – looks as fresh and as hip as ever. Patrick Cox thinks so, too, looking to the Fiorucci Fifties for his summer collection. The designer, who now designs clothes as well as shoes, staged a mock photo shoot instead of a catwalk show for his spring/summer collection. The

wind machine blew as girls with glossy lips and Pink Lady jump suits, bomber jackets and spray-on trousers, posed for the camera.

The best way to avoid looking like a Fifties throwback is to mix the new with the old; an original satin bomber jacket from a vintage clothing store with a pair of new Levi's, cropped a few inches short of the ankle. Bobby socks are not advisable unless you are under the age of 12.



Styling: Sophia Neophitou; Hair and Make-up: Alex Babsky at Mandy Coakley, using Estée Lauder; Model: Roksanda at Storm; Photographer's assistant: Mark Moon

Main picture: Red bomber jacket, £155, from Patrick Cox, 30 Sloane St, London, SW1, enquiries, 0171-730 6504; black pedal pushers, £28, from Top Shop, branches nationwide, enquiries, 0171-251 2706  
Top: Pedal pushers, £75, by Ally Capellino, 66 Sloane Avenue, London SW3, enquiries, 0171-591 8201; ruched pink top with drawstrings, £35, by Giant, from Selfridges, Oxford Street, London W1, enquiries, 0171-255 3097; stretch denim jacket, £55, from Warehouse, branches nationwide, enquiries 0171-278 3491  
Middle: Stretch 806 jeans approx. £50, from Levis, 174/176 Regent Street London W1, enquiries, 01604-790 436; one-arm ruched denim-blue top, £39, from Joseph, 26 Sloane Street, London, SW1, enquiries, 0171-590 6200; cream stiletto shoes, £40, from Faith, 152/154 Oxford Street, London W1, enquiries, 0800-259 287  
Bottom: Blue satin four jacket, £85, from American Classics, 404 King's Road, London SW10, enquiries 0171-351 5229

## The early bird gets the bargain



Silver Byblos jacket

**B**AD JUNE weather may have kept you swathed in waterproofs, or indoors until last weekend, but look on the bright side; it resulted in the summer sales starting one month earlier than usual. A number of reasons were bandied about as to why "July" sales have crept into June – from "it feels like the right time", to "no particular strategy". But, as one honest retailer commented "we haven't had a very good season". In a nutshell, this means you can buy designer clothes at sale prices. Swift action is required but check your credit card limit and hit the sales now – there's

much more choice. Secondly, start at designer level and work your way down. The best places to start are always at the designer emporiums, like Dolce & Gabbana (40 per cent off), Comme des Garçons (30 per cent off), and Liberty (up to 50 per cent off), whose sales began last week. The High Street kicks into action from next week. Liberty has discounts on every fabulous designer worth mentioning, including Ann Demeulemeester, Galiano and McQueen. In fact, their half price bargains are worth queueing for: one McQueen women's jack-

et has been reduced from £445 to £222, and a Helmut Lang men's cotton suit has gone from £385 to £350, which will annoy the people who paid full price just a few weeks ago. Other designer's on offer at half price include English Eccentrics and Betty Jackson. Confronted with a choice of designer menswear bargains, I couldn't choose between a lead and colourful Issey Miyake photoprint cagoule or more sober cotton combat trousers from Joseph and the khaki shirt from Paul Smith, shown right. I still can't make up my mind, but suspect the crepe soled, backless

loafers from Patrick Cox will be in my wardrobe soon. Hannah, shown left, was also faced with a sale dilemma. She preferred the liquid silver Byblos jacket, and Sportmax beaded skirt and camisole shown here, reduced from £409 to £207, over a pink devore Whistles dress, down from £155 to £77, despite the additional cost. Hannah's sale shopping motto is: "you can get practically from Oxford; when I go looking for bargains, they must be glamorous." For outright glamour, she could pick-up a slinky, black Gucci-logo halterneck dress at

Joseph, down from £610 to £430, or one of Ally Capellino's elegant range of lace cut dresses, from £348 to £243. Alternatively, she could drop into Pleats Please (offshoot of Issey Miyake) and check out their 30% reduced rail of photoprint dresses. If Hannah wants a day off from being a glamour-puss, however, Emporio Armani's classic wide-leg grey herringbone trouser suit may be just the ticket. It might cost £265 (a saving of £114), but will retain its elegance and style long after the liquid silver jacket loses its sheen.



ADAM FULCHER Paul Smith and Joseph



# Never mind the width, feel the quality

Maximum market share, the goal of all good business planning, may be a red herring. By Roger Trapp

IF THERE is a single guiding principle that is reckoned to be behind success in business, it is probably gaining market share. This is the thinking behind much of the current crop of mergers, for example, those that created the accounting behemoth Pricewaterhouse Coopers, "the world's biggest professional services firm". Aiming to be number one is seen as such a self-evidently grand strategy that to question it is thought of as naive in the extreme. Get lots of revenue and profits will inevitably follow, not least because of the resulting economies of scale, goes the argument.

But while this sort of approach may have worked for Lord Weinstock when he was building up GEC, it does not seem as powerful today as many merger partners would have you believe. Indeed, some of PWC's rivals in the

share was "the grand old metric, the guiding light, the compass of the product-centric age", it is no longer.

The thoughtful manager will probably have come to this conclusion, simply by looking around and seeing how many companies - particularly in the high-tech arena - have made healthy profits just by operating effectively in niches. But it is quite another thing to work out a way of turning a company focused on market share into one that concentrates on profitability.

Slywotzky and Morrison argue that this is dependent on understanding the concept of "no-profit zones", or the "black holes of the business universe". These come in various forms. They can be part of the value chain - for example distribution in computers. They can be customer segments - ie, consistent bad debtors, if you are a utility, or those who remain steadfastly in the black and carry out few transactions if you are a bank. They can be entire industries - for example, environmental remediation. Or they can be the integrated steel mills that have been bedeviled by the "mini-mills".

Once this concept is clear, the theory goes, managers will be able to identify "profit zones". The Mercer consultants illustrate their case with instances of well-known business leaders such as Jack Welch of General Electric of the United States, former Coca-Cola chief executive Roberto Goizueta and Michael Eisner of Disney who have seen how they can create value for their organisations.

At Disney, for example, Eisner has used merchandise licensing to knit the empire together. Mickey Mouse, the Lion King and other characters are pressed into action to provide a common link between films, theme parks, hotels, videos and even clothes. There is little risk of somebody, particularly a child, just seeing a film, or visiting a theme park. It is little wonder that Slywotzky and Morrison reckon Disney is able to take as much of 75 per cent of a family's holiday spend - by owning the hotel, the theme park, the restaurants, the merchandise.

But this is not the only way of achieving the "right kind of growth". While Disney is not too fussy about who its customers are, so long as they spend lots of money, other companies clearly take the view that some customers are more valuable than others.

This is most apparent in financial services, where insurance companies, for instance, will refuse to take on certain high risks because their strategy is to offer low premiums to particular customers. This



Disney may rely on Goofy and other cartoon characters for its image, but the reality is that its theme parks are extremely efficient and take as much as 75 per cent of a family's holiday spend

approach helps to explain how some new entrants to the market have proved very successful while older established names have often struggled. It also helps explain why the Texas-based company Dell is a darling stock of the computer business despite being a manufacturer of hardware, and therefore much less profitable, supposedly, than processor or software businesses.

According to Orit Gadish and James Gilbert, partners at the Bain & Co consultancy, the company founded in 1984 by Michael Dell got into trouble when it decided to break with its original strategy of selling by mail order. Going into retail produced plenty of growth - 50 per cent a year from 1989 to 1993 - but the company stopped making money and actually suffered losses.

In an article in the *Harvard Business Review*, Gadish and Gilbert quote Kevin Rollins, the company's vice-chairman, as saying that "Dell had lost its focus on the most profitable customer segments and on a distribution model that is at heart more efficient than what the retailer can provide."

Analysing the data, the company's executives concluded that retail was simply not a profitable channel for Dell - or for most other companies selling computers. Moreover, when the company pulled out of retail in 1994, it geared its business to serving only the most profitable segments of its customer base, such as large companies. In the years since then, the company has regularly "resegmented" its customer base, tracking shifts in what the con-

sultants call the "profit pool" so that it can respond more quickly than competitors to changes in the market. And when it entered the mass consumer market, which it had habitually stayed away from, it took care - through the product mix and their pricing - to attract customers who are technologically more sophisticated, and hence more profitable, than entry-level buyers.

Profit zone or profit pool: though the detail is different, the concept is the same. Successful companies are realising that, even though going for growth is probably more sustainable than cost-cutting, growth alone is not enough. It is the type of growth that counts and that means acknowledging that not all customers are created equal - and that not all business is good business.

# Unhealthy row over PFI plan for hospitals

Treasury and ASB are at loggerheads over a political matter. By Paul Gosling

THE PRIVATE Finance Initiative looks set to hit further trouble, with the disclosure that the Treasury and the Accounting Standards Board still seem unable to reach agreement on how to account for PFI deals. Meanwhile, political opposition to the PFI has been taken on by the British Medical Association, concerned that there could be major job losses of doctors and nurses at hospitals that are redeveloped using the PFI.

It had seemed likely that the ASB, headed by the no-nonsense Sir David Tweedie, and the Treasury would reach a compromise on PFI accounting. Conciliation had been assisted by the Treasury allocating an official to sit on the ASB's working party to examine PFI arrangements, and the group visiting PFI-funded projects to see the benefits of the schemes for themselves.

But after months of discussions the Treasury is still determined to attract private finance to redevelop the public infrastructure, while not counting it against the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement or the now increasingly used General Government Financial Deficit. The ASB, is equally adamant that where there is an asset, financed by underlying debt, it should appear on a balance sheet. Past failures to report such debts were a prime cause of corporate failures, it points out.

In the end, says the Treasury, it can do what it likes. The ASB has jurisdiction only over the private sector. But says the ASB, this makes a mockery of the Government's attempts to harmonise private and public sector accounting standards. The ASB recently conducted a survey of accountancy firms to ensure they supported the ASB's line. The outcome was another division. Auditors were fully behind the ASB. Corporate finance advisers, on the other hand, did not want to undermine the PFI's progress.

It is wrong, says the ASB, to treat all public assets the same, and assume that risk can equally be transferred from the public to the private sectors. "A road may easily transfer to the private sector, but with hospitals it is more difficult," says Allan Cook, technical director of the ASB. "Most of the risks in a hospital will not be connected to the building. The risk will still be borne by the Government."

Mr Cook says the Treasury is wrong to focus so heavily on risk transfer. A good PFI deal may still be justifiable without a transfer of risk if it achieves a reduction in revenue costs, even if the debt is still incurred by the Government, which can borrow more cheaply than can the private sector. But, says Mr Cook, it is wrong for the Treasury to hide a debt which, if the crunch came, it would have to pick up.

A similar point is made by Ken Wild, of Deloitte & Touche. "At the moment people associate the PFI with off-balance sheet finance, which is seen as an accounting fiddle," he argues. "It is not in anybody's interest to have it viewed in that way."

Concerns have also been raised that the real cost of PFI deals in the long term may be higher than traditional borrowing arrangements. Significantly, what has previously appeared to be an esoteric debate

between accountants and civil servants is now taking on a wider political dimension.

Dr Jean Shaul, of Manchester University's department of finance and accounting, is a strong critic of the PFI. She says that the public sector's move to resource accounting and the Treasury's drawing up a "Domestic" list of public assets, taken with the failure of the Government itself to finance capital projects, will exacerbate pressures on health trusts to enter into PFI contracts.

Under the Treasury's new resource accounting and budgeting rules, public bodies must now achieve a return on capital of 6 per cent. This aim is artificially made more difficult, argues Dr Shaul, by valuing hospital buildings at current replacement cost, rather than at historic cost as the private sector would do. The rate of return can only be achieved by some hospitals if staffing levels and services are cut, and surplus land disposed of.

It is often the surplus land that makes hospitals particularly attractive for PFI deals, but underused land may be situated in the middle of a complex. This is leading to pressure to redevelop entire hospitals, even when comparatively modern. What is more, Dr Shaul adds, there has been an average reduction of 30 per cent in beds and clinical jobs where hospitals are replaced under



Sir David Tweedie, chairman of the ASB

PFI contracts, because of the high PFI charges. But, she says, staffing cuts threaten income generation.

It has been assumed by health trusts and the Government that this bed and staff reduction is sustainable by discharging patients more quickly. Dr Shaul and the BMA challenge this, saying that with more elderly and single people the policy can work only if local authorities and families take on responsibility for post-operative care.

Dr Shaul predicts serious problems if the Government does not rethink both its PFI and resource accounting rules. "They are financially unstable, and will have dire consequences of massive job losses and service reductions," she predicts. "They are effectively liquidating the public sector."

Such well-known US companies as IBM, General Motors, Ford, Kodak and Sears Roebuck have achieved leading market shares and yet seen their profitability, and hence their share values, eroded

professional services field take the view that there are some clients they would rather not have, and there is a growing school of thought that believes that "market share is dead".

As Adrian Slywotzky and David Morrison of Mercer Management Consulting point out in their book *The Profit Zone* (John Wiley & Sons, £16.99), some disturbing examples have subverted "the widespread faith in market share as the ultimate goal and guarantor of business success". Such well-known US companies as IBM, Digital Equipment, General Motors, Ford, Kodak and Sears Roebuck have achieved leading market shares and yet seen their profitability, and hence their share values, eroded during the 1990s.

Some of these organisations have recovered of late, but the authors attribute that recovery at least in part to focusing on profit, rather than just market share. In short, they have realised that, though market



## THE TRADER

RORY HAS taken Sam to the cleaners. In a manner of speaking. What actually happened was a blazing row over Saturday lunch - something to do with Rory having dinner with his wife - at the high point of which Sam stormed out and Rory hit the bottle. Several hours later, in a drunken rage, he bundled all Sam's designer duds into a taxi and drove off with them to the dry cleaners.

In itself, taking your girlfriend's clothes to be cleaned is not grounds for separation, especially when you were the one who bought them in the first place. Unfortunately, when he woke up in an alley off Oxford Street in the small hours, it was all he could do to remember his name, let alone where he'd taken Sam's threads. Someone had lifted his wallet as he slept, so he didn't even have the receipts.

When Sam came back from her mum's on Sunday afternoon and found her denuded ward-

robe, the hoped-for reconciliation - flowers, chocolates and dinner somewhere posh - bit the dust. Rory slept on the sofa at the far end of the Docklands warehouse conversion, saved from having the bedroom door slammed in his face only by the fact that there wasn't one.

Since then, they've hardly spoken, not even in the office. It isn't helping the poor girl's temper to have to walk around in her pre-Rory nylon suits from shops called things like "Miss Tammy" and "Empatique".

The not-talking bit is tricky given that Sam and Rory's jobs require them to visit to each other constantly. Still, it's amusing the rest of us to watch them trying to work without any direct communication. And it stops us brooding on the week's greatest tragedy, which is this: through some terrible cosmic oversight, we do not work for Goldman Sachs.

This would be more bearable if we hadn't, a year ago, been involved in some fairly heavy discussions with Goldman's about a team move there. The deal never came off, because Rory thought they were too boring for words, and they thought he was too "interesting". If it had, we would now be whooping it up big-time and planning ways to spend our millions.

"Though what constitutes 'whooping it up' at Goldman Sachs is hard to imagine, isn't it?" Laura says thoughtfully, no doubt remembering that dinner where the Goldman boys drank

Perrier and picked at salads before dashing back for a midnight visit to the office.

"Don't worry, they'll find a way," I assure her. "Big, big houses and big, big cars, for a start. Then tiny, tiny mobile phones and tiny, tiny computers, and one day they'll realise they can't find a thing because it's all too small."

"Jealous?" asks Laura.

"As hell," I reply.

I'm saved from further displays of bitterness by the phone, and I'm delighted to hear my mate James's voice at the other end. "What's up, James?" I try, and he tells me about his kid sister's hilarious first day at her Saturday job. "Some old bloke in his thirties, steaming drunk, staggered in with a huge pile of really great clothes. He could hardly see straight, he was so drunk. What's the betting he doesn't even remember where he was?"

"Pretty high, James," I laugh. "But I think I may be able to solve the mystery..."

KEITH DANIELS, of the Sheffield office of KPMG, has taken over the presidency of the Chartered Institute of Taxation and is determined to rationalise the way in which tax is gathered from small and medium-sized enterprises and so "simplify the relationship between the State and the taxpayer".

BDO STDY Hayward, the second-tier accountancy firm, has launched an "easy-to-use" company valuation tool. Developed using statistical analysis techniques by the mergers and acquisitions team at the firm, the PCPI Pricing Curve is a chart that shows the relationship between the profits of a company and the price that it should command on sale.

LONDON GUILDHALL University has set up a business school that will target what it sees as the lack of educational courses training people for

## UPDATE

specific careers in the City. The school will involve six departments, including accounting and financial services, computing, information systems and maths and economics, and will offer both vocational and professional education.

THE GOVERNMENT is to pioneer use of a smart-card signature service, launched last week by Barclays Bank, to enable new self-employed individuals to register their status on the Internet. This initial application of the Barclays Endorse card, which will enable documents to be signed digitally for submission via the Internet to the Contributions Agency, the Inland Revenue and HM Customs & Excise, will be tested over the next six months in nine locations around the country.

THE INTRODUCTION of the euro from next January will provide a major opportunity for information technology firms, according to research by the IT services company Granger Group. It says that many European organisations preparing their IT systems for the euro, and also grappling with the Year 2000 problem, face significantly increased risks of financial loss from both inadvertent errors and intentional computer-related fraud.

TILLINGHASTOWERS Perrin, the management consultancy, has launched a worldwide capital management practice that it claims helps insurers achieve more effective utilisation of their capital. At a time when the insurance industry continues to consolidate, insurers realise that achieving higher capital productivity and company value have become critical factors for success, says the firm.



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to work within the Emerging Markets Group with responsibility for product origination. This will also involve Emerging Markets Group product structuring with a focus on derivative trades structured with a focus on Europe. The successful candidate will possess a minimum degree level education coupled with at least 3/4 years directly education experience within the emerging markets relevant coupled with experience. The salary offered is commensurate to fill this position. If you possess the necessary skills to fill this position, please send your CV to PO Box 21015A, Islington, London, N1 1WS

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK requires VICE PRESIDENT

to be involved with the evaluation and execution of structured finance. The role requires close liaison with investment banking organisation, teams and other product specialists. Candidates should have min. five years' experience within an international investment bank, be fully credit rated, computer literate with credit modelling skills and have the ability to assess transaction risks. A banking or related degree is essential with fluency in European languages an advantage. The salary offered is commensurate with experience. If you possess the skills required for this role, please send your CV to PO Box 21015C, Islington, London, N1 1WS

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to join The Securitisation Group responsible for asset-backed securities. Work will include originating and structuring CBO/CLO transactions. The successful candidate will possess a minimum MBA together with at least 3/4 years directly relevant experience within an investment banking environment. The salary offered is commensurate to experience. If you possess the necessary skills, please send your CV to PO Box 21015B, Islington, London, N1 1WS

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Responsibilities will include undertaking project finance analysis, economic and legal evaluation, transaction negotiation and establishing security arrangements. The successful candidate will possess a minimum degree level education coupled with at least 2/3 years directly relevant post degree experience. The salary offered is commensurate to experience. If you possess the necessary skills to fill this position, please send your CV to PO Box 21015C, Islington, London N1 1WS

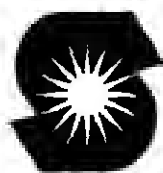


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Amadeus Development Co. SA  
The Army  
Arthur Andersen  
Asda Stores Ltd  
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The Associates  
Baring Asset Management Limited  
Bass Leisure Retail  
BNFL  
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British Aerospace plc  
British Sugar plc  
Cambridge Technology Partners  
Campus Venues Limited  
The CanDo Service  
CEGELEC Projects Ltd  
Charles Baynes plc  
CIMA Chartered Institute of Management Accountants  
Cisco Systems  
The College of Law  
Commercial Union  
Connections Employment Agency  
Coopers & Lybrand  
Coopers & Lybrand Kinesis  
Courtauld Textiles Plc  
Debenhams plc  
Deloitte & Touche  
Delta Consultants  
DESG Defence Engineering and Science Group  
EAP European School of Management  
EDS  
Enterprise Rent-A-Car  
Ernst & Young  
Filtronic Comtek (UK) Ltd  
Finelist Group plc  
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GEC Marconi  
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Graduate Gateway Programme, University of Salford  
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JM Computing  
KPMG  
LabSystems  
Lucie Clayton Training College  
Madge Networks Ltd  
Manpower Managed Services  
MBNA International Bank Limited  
McDonald's Restaurants Limited  
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Price Waterhouse Management Consulting  
Procter & Gamble Ltd  
Queen's Business & Secretarial College, London; Queen's Marlborough College, Cambridge  
Rank Hovis Ltd  
Riva Software International  
RM plc  
Rolls Royce plc  
Royal Air Force  
SEMA Group/BAe Sema  
Standard Life  
Strazons & Co  
S Y Electronics Ltd  
Syntegra  
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THE INDEPENDENT



# So where do you want this oil, mate?

You're a commodities trader. You've bought 1,000 barrels of North Sea crude. Why don't you have to take delivery? Stefan Bernstein explains

HOW MANY times have you seen it? Oil prices drop and the cost of petrol stays the same or even rises. The world's commodities are getting cheaper, but the average person doesn't benefit. Of course, when the reverse is true and oil prices are on the way up, pump prices are quick to follow suit. A lose-lose situation for the motorist.

Well here's a way that even small investors can fight back. With a little research and astute timing, you're profits could pay for all the fuel you'll ever need. And, along with the profits, you have the added advantage of feeling like a big-time investor without the financial backing of George Soros.

Call it commodities trading or dealing in futures, it still has a ring of mystery and excitement about it. It may simply be because so few people really understand what happens in the various dealing rooms and trading pits where chaos seems to reign, and those with the loudest voices and wildest gesticulations seem to come out on top. But the world's commodities markets are really nothing to be afraid of.

Whether it is the price of oil, some other physical commodity such as sugar or coffee, or an intangible such as a stock index, the commodities markets trade according to strict

"contract" specifications. These contracts specify fixed delivery dates and standard nominal values so that all the players in the market understand what it is, exactly, they are agreeing to buy or sell. So, anyone with access to a broker can trade in commodities.

For example, you might be happy to trade in an oil contract, but you will want to know the quantity of oil involved, the delivery date, the price and its grade. All these features are set down in considerable detail by the various markets (such as LIFFE, the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange), and this allows individuals to react quickly without ever having to think in depth about whether or not the "asset" in question is suitable. If someone buys a contract, then he is obliged to buy the asset on a particular date. If someone were to sell a commodities contract, then they would have to sell the particular assets in question on a particular date.

As always, an example is the easiest way of understanding why anybody would do this.

Imagine you are a speculator and you think that the price of oil is about to rocket because of difficulties in the oil producing regions. You would probably buy a futures con-

tract and would therefore be taking a "long position". Let's say the current futures price of oil is £100 per contract (for easy reckoning). If, during the life of the contract, the price of the contract itself should rise to, say, £150, due to the perceived shortages actually becoming reality, then you would simply then sell your contract at £150 having made a handsome 50 per cent profit. At the same time the price of oil company shares may rise, but it would be by a much smaller amount. The best you could hope for in the equities market would be 4-5 per cent.

It is important to understand that when you buy a commodities or futures contract, the most you can actually lose is the total amount of your investment - £100 in the above example if oil should become worthless. This is, of course, highly un-

likely, and you should have the opportunity to follow the price down and salvage at least some of your money on the way out. The amount of profit you can make, however, is virtually unlimited.

You can also profit from falling prices. Imagine you hear that huge amounts of oil are about to be discovered in Antarctica and that this will halve the price. In this case, you can go out and sell the contract you bought in the previous example, for the same amount. You have now received £100 but you are obliged to make delivery of the oil on the specified date. Of course, you know that oil will collapse in price, that you will be able to buy the contract to close out your position at £25, and will therefore make £75 profit.

The placing of an order in the commodities market is devastatingly

simple once you have established a trading account. Imagine for example that you expect the price of oil to go down shortly. You will simply call your broker's trading desk and give your account number, asking to sell one June oil contract at the market. Your broker should hold for a few seconds before confirming that the deal has been done. This will be executed directly to the relevant trading floor at the relevant commodities exchange either by computer or by telephone. Your broker should then respond to the effect that you have sold one June oil contract at \$YY per barrel.

If you take out a long position in some commodity and you choose not to close the position, or forget to do so, what happens? If you'd purchased six tonnes of Robusta coffee, would a couple of lorries appear in

your road, and promptly tip out a mountain of beans on your drive, the day after the contract expires?

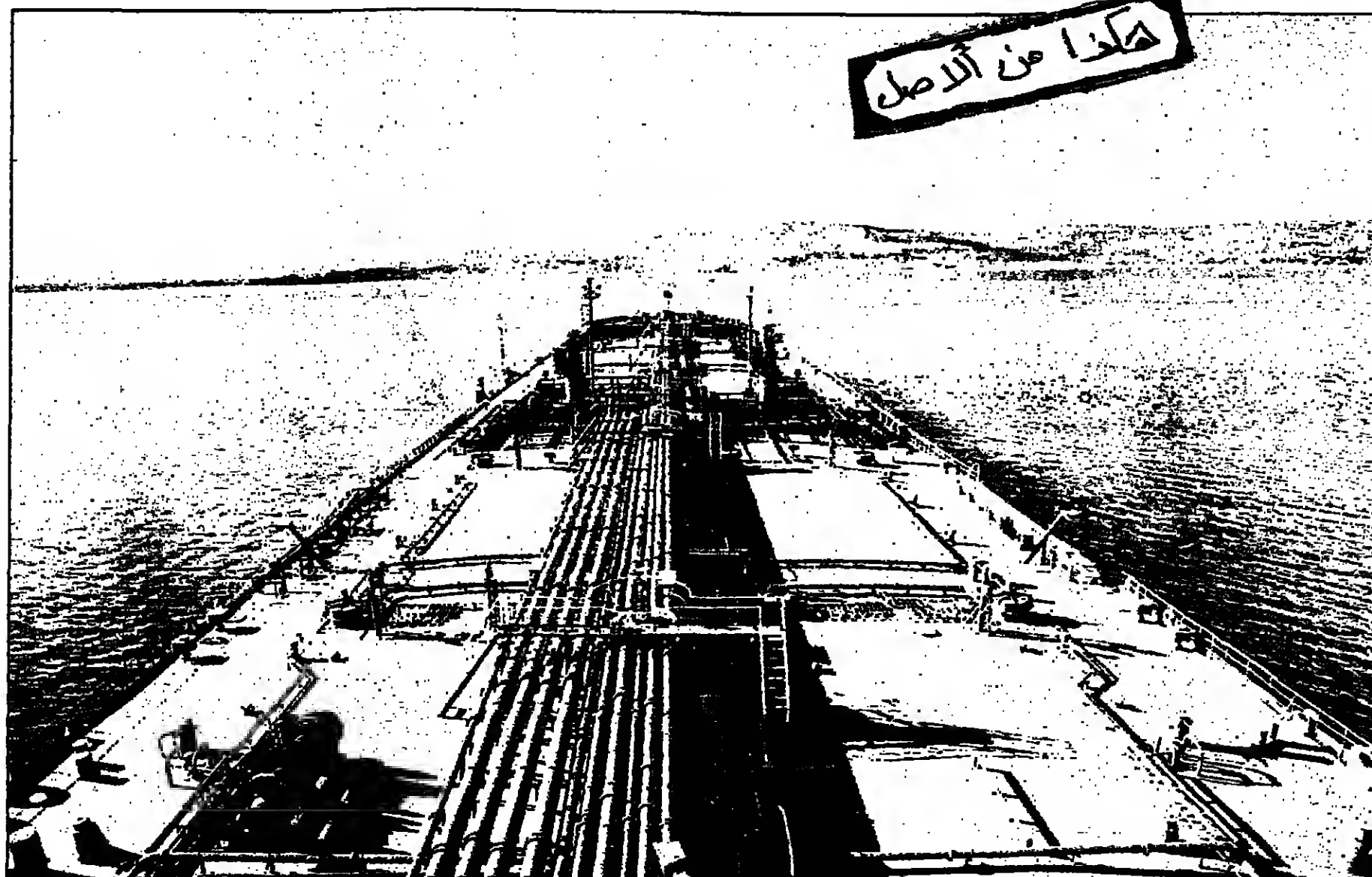
Well, before you arrange coffee mornings for the next 30 years, this will not happen. As your contract nears maturity, be it long or short, your brokerage firm will be keeping a wary eye on it. Some time before "delivery", the firm will telephone all open long position holders and tell them to either close their position or prepare to take full delivery and also pay the value of the underlying contract. Similarly holders of open short contracts will be asked to close out their trades or make ready to deliver the underlying commodity (and show they have the required quantity and quality available).

Even manufacturers and processing companies who trade with the commodity rarely take delivery

of the underlying goods. This is because the commodity contracts are rarely in the exact quality or grade that they need.

Instead they will close their position, having successfully hedged against price movements, and buy in the cash market. The cash market price will have followed the commodity price throughout the period in question. Only those companies who trade in a commodity for which they can find buyers of many different grades tend to take physical delivery.

Stefan Bernstein's book "Understand Commodities in a Day" is available for £6.95, post-free, from TFL, PO Box 200, Harrogate HG1 2YR. Or fax credit card details on 01423-526035 or email tfl@compuserve.com



Call it commodities trading, and suddenly buying and selling oil has a ring of mystery and excitement about it

Niall Duffy

## Are you ready to rock 'n' dole?

Welfare to Work will allow budding musicians to continue to claim benefit, and the pop moguls say the rules will be as tight as the hottest band in town. By Paul Slade

NEW LABOUR'S Welfare to Work plans threatening dole payments for the young unemployed were the last straw for many of the party's supporters in the pop music industry.

People such as Creation Records' owner Alan McGee argue that the dole has played a vital part in building the UK pop industry, allowing talented beginners to work on their music for a few years with no distractions. Taking this basic subsidy away, they claim, would sabotage Britain's impressive record of producing internationally successful bands, and hit Britain's earnings from record sales abroad.

Mr McGee should know what he is talking about - he is the man who discovered Oasis. Last week, Andrew Smith, the Employment Minister, announced details of the so-called "rock 'n' dole" scheme to allow 18-to-24-year-olds to continue claiming their Jobseekers' Allowance of £39.35 a week for 13 months, providing they can persuade the job centre clerks that they are seriously pursuing a career in music. The Conservatives have called this a "scroungers' charter".

Music industry professionals will train job centre staff to filter out obvious time-wasters, before conducting a second screening process themselves. This promises a fascinating clash of cultures as Civil Service bureaucracy rubs up against the anarchic rock and pop industry. Successful applicants



Even Oasis's Liam Gallagher had to start small

Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert

will then have meetings every two months with music industry volunteers to monitor their progress. But how can the scheme hope to distinguish between genuinely promising performers and the hordes of no-hopers?

Andy Saunders, head of communications at Creation Records, says: "What we are looking for is commitment and passion. Anybody who has got

any bous about the music business can sit down with somebody and work out whether being a musician is the right thing for them. If you and I had a conversation for an hour, I think you'd find it very hard to bullshit me."

"Make no mistake about this - if the young person is not fulfilling their responsibilities, they're off the scheme. We don't want people who are half-arsed

about it." Like Mr McGee, he plans to volunteer as a mentor under the scheme, and is confident that many other music industry workers will too.

Some people on the scheme will not become musicians, but will train for other jobs in the pop industry, such as becoming a recording engineer.

Musicians themselves can take an "open learning" option that requires them only to

keep a diary noting rehearsals that have been held and demonstration tapes recorded.

This conjures up the vision of a budding Liam Gallagher sitting down quietly at the end of the day to complete his work diary: "Smashed up hotel room, punched bloke in front row." Surely rock stars in the future, just like Gallagher himself, will be fuelled by their own unquenchable self-belief rather than this kind of disciplined approach?

"A lot of great rock music does come from unconventional and anti-establishment feelings," Mr Saunders concedes. "But people have already got to be disciplined enough to sit down with an employment adviser and persuade him that they've been looking for work if they want to claim unemployment benefit now."

"What we've done is take the lying out of the process. Musicians won't have to lie that they have been out looking for work when what they've really been doing is being a musician."

Once musicians have completed the open learning segment of the scheme, they can move on to playing live and hustling for a record deal. This entitles them to a training allowance, equivalent to their normal JSA plus an extra £15.38 a week. Mr Saunders hopes the scheme will be up and running by September.

any credits they had instead.

At Midland Bank, Andrew Barnett says: "It's a difficult case, because it's at the riskier end of the spectrum. What happens would very much depend on the people involved and what, if any, money they were likely to be putting into it themselves. But I'm sure it is something one of our managers on the ground would be prepared to

## John, 68, feels fine. But what if...

"WHO WILL organise my future care?" John and I discussed this issue at a review of his financial affairs.

John, 68, is a retired company director. He is a bachelor who enjoys a comfortable retirement from his pension income of about £50,000 a year. He has substantial other savings, which are invested for growth.

He is in excellent health, but is concerned should he fall ill and need long-term care. An estimated two in five people in retirement will need some form of care. John had read about the costs of care in a nursing home and wondered how it would affect him.

Surveys indicate that the average cost of nursing home accommodation is £17,800 a year, but this hides much local variation. Our firm, in the Colchester area of Essex, surveyed local nursing care homes last year and found an average cost of about £20,800 a year.

It was decided that John was in a fortunate position in that should he require care, he could comfortably afford the costs from his pension income without resorting to his savings. Because of his financial resources, both in terms of income and savings, he would not qualify for local authority assistance.

John explained that should he require some form of care, he would wish to remain in his own home as long as possible.

We had established that financing the cost of care was not an issue, but who would organise it? This is not an eventuality that most people plan for. Consequently, when it occurs, most people are ill-prepared and don't know where to get help. For

### THE FIXERS



JAMES BRUCE

many, this burden falls to their children. As John does not have children, or close family, it was an issue that concerned him.

To solve this problem we implemented a long-term care insurance policy, on a minimum cover basis, with PPP Lifetime Care, a leading provider of long-term care plans. Its premier level of cover was chosen. This starts to provide funds towards the cost of care should John either fall two "activities of daily living", or suffer mental impairment. This cover could be funded either by a regular premium or by a one-off lump sum. John chose the lump sum option, costing £4,620.

"Activities of daily living" (ADLs) form the basis of an objective means of measuring frailty. These tests usually include mobility, washing, dressing, feeding, toileting and continence. The level of cover provided by John's plan is a partial long-term care benefit of £200 a month payable on the failure of two ADLs, and full benefit of £400 a month on the failure of three ADLs.

In John's case, the financial benefits provided by this arrangement are of secondary importance to the Care Support Service that is integral to the cover. The benefits provided through this service

are essentially threefold.

First, John now has immediate telephone access to specially trained staff who can provide information and advice on care-related issues. This service is available 24 hours a day.

Second, if John's health should deteriorate to a point where he qualifies for benefit, he will be assigned a "personal care counsellor" to create a package of care which suits his individual needs. The counsellor will visit John's home and spend as much time as it takes to understand his particular wishes and concerns. This will enable the counsellor to devise and implement a package of care services that meet his requirements. The care can be brought to John, to enable him to live in his home for as long as is practical. For example, if John's condition requires physiotherapy, the counsellor will organise a qualified therapist to visit him.

Should John require specialist equipment to help him to live in his own home more easily, the counsellor will source and organise that. In short, practical help and support.

Finally, the support service will review the care continuously to ensure that it remains appropriate and of high quality.

As a result of this action John can get on with enjoying his busy and active retirement. He has the reassurance that if future care is required, it will be organised for him.

James Bruce is a senior financial planner at Corporate and Personal Planning, fee-charging independent financial advisers in Colchester, Essex (01206 853888).

### WILL BANKS LEND TO BUDDING ROCK STARS?

it all but impossible to produce the formal business plans other documents banks will demand with any loan application.

We put forward the case of a small band which has built up a loyal local following and now needs to borrow a few thousand pounds to record,

press and package their own CD for sale at future concerts. How would the high street banks react to their request for a small business loan?

NatWest says: "We would view the band as a small business, just as we would the corner shop. The things

we would look at are their experience to date, what sort of income they'd been getting and whether they had any collateral."

Rather than offering the band a business loan, NatWest might encourage the members to take a personal loan or borrow on

Paul Slade

We are not used to thinking of rock and pop bands as small businesses but, as the new scheme acknowledges that is just what they are.

Like any such business, a fledgling band must establish a customer base advertise its wares, and keep the money coming in.

But its line of work makes



# Not all advice is good advice

They may be 'best buys' to some independent advisers, but they could be a bad deal for you. By James Moore

How independent is independent financial advice? With the creation in 1986 of the Savings and Investments Board, now the Financial Services Authority, financial advisers were forced to tie to one company or choose to become independent, recommending products to their clients from the whole market. But consumer groups and MPs are growing concerned about just how independent some advice is.

Bradford & Bingley Building Society is the biggest high-street organisation in the field, with around 400 independent financial advisers (IFAs). But the "best buy" lists which the society's advisers use to select products for their clients have been criticised for being too restrictive, specifying a limited number of providers for each product area. In the case of personal pensions, just six are listed.

Its IFAs' choices could be said to be limited further by so-called "preferred" or "lead" providers - an even more restricted number of companies or products which advisers are meant to use. Leaked B&B documents containing instructions to its IFAs state: "The recommendation of lead products is mandatory except where they do not meet the suitability criteria. Preferred products should also be recommended when they meet suitability criteria but this is not mandatory." However, if an adviser does not recommend a preferred product for any reason other than suitability, then the reasons for the choice must be fully documented. "One of these 'preferred' or 'lead' products is the society's own Premier Choice PEP.

Bradford & Bingley's chief executive, Christopher Rodrigues, recently sparked controversy by calling for advisers to be able to enter into a "multi-tied" arrangement - where they would have links with just four or five providers - for some low-cost, standardised products, such as the Government's new Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) and stakeholder pensions.

A spokesman for the society says this is Mr Rodrigues' own opinion. "Whether his personal views reach

to being official views is another matter," he adds.

The Consumers' Association is concerned about the use of panels and has tried to conduct research, but with little success.

Its senior money researcher, Philip Telford, questions the society's policy and the use of panels in general. "We have found it pretty impossible to get hold of these lists. If I was going to see an independent financial adviser I would expect them to look across the whole market. 'I am very concerned. The number of products they are recommending seems restrictive. You would seem to be steered towards a small group of lead or preferred products rather than having one recommended to suit your circumstances at any particular time."

Bradford & Bingley's spokesman says: "All our panels are independently drawn up by independent actuaries. They fairly reflect the best available providers and products at any one time. They are constantly reviewed and updated."

Ken Raynor, the society's investment market manager, is responsible for its PEP and unit trust panels. The B&B PEP works by outsourcing to a third-party fund manager. Mr Raynor says: "We have a lead or preferred provider on the PEP panel, which is currently the B&B PEP, which is invested in the Schroder Enterprise Fund. We re-look at this every six months. You could say we are focusing on one product but in reality it doesn't work that simply."

He adds that if a client already has a large holding in this fund the adviser will recommend another PEP. They have a choice of 42 funds. But even other independent financial advisers are wary of this approach. For example, DBS, the largest network of IFAs, has a much wider unit trust panel, featuring more than 200 funds.

Andrew Bedford, sales and marketing director at the Financial Options network of 250 advisers, says his company does not like panels. "We don't use [them] because of their restrictive nature. So many people's circumstances are so vastly different that a good panel would be so large it would be unworkable," he says.



Some advisers must toe the company line, others can recommend any product. A third group must use a 'best buy' list drawn up by their bosses Tom Pilsten

## HOW TO FIND A GOOD ADVISER

Financial advisers have had a bad press in recent years. They were implicated, for instance, in the scandal over mass mis-selling of personal pensions. On the other hand, good advisers can be worth their weight in gold.

By law, they can be either tied, advising on only one company's products, or independent, choosing products for their clients from the whole market. Here is a brief guide to the different types.

**COMPANY REPS:**  
Directly linked to one company.  
Examples: Prudential, Allied

**Dumbor:**  
Pros: Thorough knowledge of their company's products.  
Cons: Pressure to meet sales targets can lead to improper advice. Appalling record in pension mis-selling, variable in clearing it up. Can only advise on one company's products.

**TIED AGENTS:**  
Contractually tied to one company but not directly linked. Can range from building societies to one-man bands.

**Pros and cons:** Similar to those for company representatives.

**NATIONAL FIRMS:**  
Large companies, often employing hundreds of IFAs. Examples: Hogg Robinson, Bradford & Bingley.

Pros: Their IFAs have the resources to research products thoroughly. Buying power can get clients discounts.  
Cons: Operate off "best buy" lists, which can be restrictive. Buying power can simply mean higher

commissions to advisers. Poor pension mis-selling record, but in most cases quick to clear up.

**IFA NETWORKS:**  
Companies providing back-office support, research, and training to IFA firms. Examples: DBS, Countrywide, Financial Options, M&E Network.  
Pros: As for national firms, above. Members are usually small firms running their own businesses and have close personal contact with clients.

Cons: Poor pension mis-selling record, very poor clear-up record. Often use "best buy" lists, but wider and less prescriptive.

**OTHER IFAs**  
Huge variety, ranging from single practitioners to firms with up to 20 advisers.  
Pros: The personal touch. Rarely use best-buy lists.  
Cons: Some argue that they lack the resources of bigger players.

Lastly, check whether your adviser has passed the AEPF or PIC exams, the profession's recognised qualifications.

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Opening an account is subject to status and identification will be required. 3 Interest will be paid after deduction of income tax at the lower rate (currently 20%) or, subject to the required registration, gross. Where the tax deducted exceeds the interest, the net interest will be nil. 4 Interest will be paid on the balance of the account after deduction of income tax at the lower rate (currently 20%) or, subject to the required registration, gross. Where the tax deducted exceeds the interest, the net interest will be nil. 5 Interest will be paid on the balance of the account after deduction of income tax at the lower rate (currently 20%) or, subject to the required registration, gross. Where the tax deducted exceeds the interest, the net interest will be nil. 6 Interest will be paid on the balance of the account after deduction of income tax at the lower rate (currently 20%) or, subject to the required registration, gross. 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## Invest in the best

Shop around for financial services and save thousands. Rachel Fixsen reports in the last of a series on making the most of your money

DECIDING TO take out a pension plan or investment is only the start. There are thousands of financial products on the market and choosing which one to buy can be confusing. Some people close their eyes and pick one at random, but researching your options is important.

Failing to shop around can cost you dear. When taking out a mortgage people do tend to compare deals offered by different institutions, but many take the first investment, life insurance or pension they come across, according to research by the Consumers' Association (CA).

Mick McAteer, senior researcher at the CA, says: "Most people don't shop around because they consider financial services companies to be necessary evils - they think they'll get just as bad a deal somewhere else."

But in research conducted last year, the CA compared two sets of customers. The first simply bought financial services from High Street providers without comparing, while the second shopped around.

The study found that, in most cases, a family buying a basket of products such as a mortgage, Tessa, personal pension and life assurance would have been £5,000 better off after five years if they had shopped around for better deals.

Research is particularly important when buying life assurance. You can easily end up tying yourself in for 25 years, with heavy penalties if you withdraw early.

The difference between a good value product and a poor value one can be huge, especially with a long-term investment. For instance, the charges levied by personal pension providers vary so much that if you choose an expensive one, you could end up with 20 per cent less money in retirement.

Where do you start? Specialist publications and personal finance pages in the weekend newspapers are a good place to arm yourself with basic knowledge about the market. The Independent and the Independent on Sunday have money pages containing advice and recommendations.

MoneyFacts is a monthly publication which has a wealth of information on savings, bank accounts and credit cards. Life & Pensions MoneyFacts, its sister publication, contains performance data and product information for a range of investments.

Before putting money away into your faithful old building society account, take a look at the rate of interest it pays.

You may be surprised at the vast difference between this and the interest offered by a newer account being actively marketed by another institution.

For instance, a Lloyds Bank flexible savings account gives you just 3.4 per cent gross interest a year if you have a balance of £500, while Scottish

Widows Bank pays 7 per cent on the same balance with its instant access telephone and postal access account.

Judging how good returns are likely to be from a more complex investment such as a unit trust is more difficult. The small print in investment advertisements constantly reminds us that past performance is no guarantee of future returns. But performance tables are, nevertheless, a good place to start.

Janice Thomson, of independent financial advisers Chelsea Financial Services, says: "It's really all you've got to go by. They're no guarantee, but one would assume that something that has good past performance has a better chance."

With stock market investments, look at performance over the past five and ten-year periods, as equities investments are unsuitable for shorter lengths of time. Check fees and charges levied by the provider, as these can eat into the returns.

Using an independent financial adviser (IFA) is a good idea if you have an important investment decision to make, for instance taking out a pension. IFAs have the resources and expertise to know what is available - and you might be able to sue them if they make a bad choice.

They are legally required to recommend the most suitable product for you.

The best way to find a reputable adviser is by recommendation from a friend. If that isn't an option for you, the phone services listed below will help you track one down.

The best advice is given by financial advisers who work on a fee basis rather than taking commission out of the product they sell you, according to CA research. But many people balk at the idea of paying fees to an IFA, and commission taken out of the product they buy seems less painful.

When buying through an IFA who takes commission, don't be afraid to negotiate, says Janice Thomson. She says: "If it's a product that is not all that complicated, ask whether there is any room for manoeuvre on it."

Whatever financial product you buy, it is important to keep it under review. Your circumstances may change and a safer investment may be more suitable or a new product might come onto the market which gives a better return.

### USEFUL NUMBERS

MoneyFacts: 01603 476747.  
Chelsea Financial Services: 0171 351 6022.  
Independent Financial Advisers Promotion on 0117 971 1177 will give you addresses of three IFAs in your area. Money Management magazine has a list of fee-based advisers. Call 0117 976 9444 for a list of the six nearest to you. The Solicitors for Independent Financial Advice has a helpline; call 01372 721172.



Gossip is fun, and does have its uses. But newcomers to the office should be careful whose company they keep. By Katie Hilpern

# Careless talk can cost jobs

IT'S THE first week of your new job and you barely know the post-boy from the MD. Suddenly, however, a juicy piece of gossip starts tongues wagging and, within minutes, the darkest secrets of the entire office appear to have been revealed to you.

Julie, it seems, is a real back-stabber. Tim is absurdly high-minded; the unassuming looking chap in the corner whose name has escaped you is rumoured to have a dreadful temper; and so on.

But as you make a mental note of every colleague's personality type, you should consider how you yourself are being sized up. Since you are a fresh recruit, this is important. After all, you don't want to appear to be a killjoy. Indeed, if you keep too quiet and stony-faced, you may even be suspected to be a snitch. But, at the same time, you ought to be aware that being seen to indulge in gossip so early in your career has its downsides.

Your superiors may think you're easily led and your colleagues may frown on you for not sticking to the principle that applies to companies and families alike: fully fledged members can run them down, but woe betide anyone else who does so. So, how do you strike a balance? According to Judi James - who trains new recruits in the working environment - this is no trivial matter, and it is of particular importance to employees fresh out of education.

that everyone is unaccustomed to everyone else. Then, as time goes on, it all gets forgotten.

"But, in an office, the chances are that everyone already knows each other, and if you walk in and back the wrong horse it can be extremely detrimental to your career and working relationships."

Furthermore, claims Angela Baron, policy adviser for the Institute for Personnel and Development, being indiscreet about colleagues will imply to a manager that you are also indiscreet about the company.

"Any good company should not even have a grapevine," she asserts. But Cary Cooper, professor of occupational psychology at University of Manchester Institute of Technology, disagrees. Gossip can be useful in circulating ideas indirectly. If you are new to a company, you may be

too shy to approach the boss about a wacky idea. Instead, you can spread it about as a rumour to get some initial feedback."

In addition, he says, it's a good way of comparing notes. "If your boss is coming on to you in his office, you may find out through gossiping with others that you are not the only victim. Then you can do something about it."

Stefan Stern, of the Industrial Society - which will soon be publishing a book on office dilemmas - believes that hearsay can be effective if you have had suffered misfortune. "If, say, your partner dies, it is doubtful that you'll want to make an announcement about it. But by telling the right people, you know you won't have to."

"The same can apply if you've made a mistake at work that can't be kept secret."

Is the aim, then, to make sure your gossip focuses only on specific issues? When it comes to innovative ideas and any negative personal experiences you may have had, the answer would seem to be Yes. Even rumours about potential disasters should be considered grist for the rumour mill, claims Cooper. "You may hear that the company is downsizing, and that there are going to be redundancies."

Gossip like this can spread fast and force bosses into a situation where they have to let you know whether it is the truth or not."

But what about that oldest form of gossip: back-stabbing? Can office workers - especially new recruits - hope to avoid dishing the dirt on their colleagues?

"That may be the ideal, but it is unrealistic," claims Cooper. "All gossip should be accepted as part and parcel of human nature in any environment. My advice is obvious when it comes to slander: try not to get involved, but accept that it goes on."

This is the area where graduates are most likely to come unstuck, warns James.

"You can find yourself part of slanderous gossip just by listening in. Even if you don't contribute anything to the conversation, the fact that you are looking like a dog staring at a biscuit, or laughing like a clown, means you're already involved."

"The best thing is to acquire the type of smile that most managers have perfected - very subtle, while at the same time nodding down at your chest. That way, you can be diplomatic, yet hear everything. After all, there's no doubt that knowledge can be power."



If the boss is coming on to you, you may find out through gossip that you are not the only one

## HOW TO PREVENT GOSSIP RUINING YOUR CAREER

Indulge in office gossip only when:

- You want to discover the truth about something that affects you directly.
- You want to spread around information without making a formal announcement.
- You know for sure that no one is going to suffer unduly as a result.

Never indulge in office gossip when:

- You know you are doing it just as a way of brightening up an otherwise dull day.
- It might unfairly damage someone's reputation.
- You're not sure who's who in the office.

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New research says that workplace intimidation doesn't just upset the staff – it cuts the boss's profits as well. By Roger Trapp

# Keeping the work bully at bay

TEN YEARS after the problem first came to public attention, everybody is familiar with the way that bullies can ruin workplaces with their behaviour. When people talk about bullying they are usually referring to obviously intimidating acts, such as shouting, threats and physical abuse. But recent research from the United States suggests that much lesser acts can have a significant damaging effect.

None of the incidents at the core of the study carried out by researchers at the University of North Carolina's business school involved physical aggression or violence. Indeed, many were relatively mild and might even have been taken as ambiguous. They included accusations about lack of knowledge, undermining credibility in front of others and sending demeaning notes. Yet they often had a serious consequence.

According to the responses of 775 people who had been the subject of incivility at work, 53 per cent lost work time worrying about the incident or future dealings, 48 per cent contemplated changing jobs to avoid the instigator (with 12 per cent actually doing so), 37 per cent believed that their commitment to the organisation declined, 28 per cent lost work time avoiding the instigator, 22 per cent reduced their effort at work and 10 per cent decreased the amount of time they spent at work.

But there were potential "spillover" effects beyond these. Nearly everyone who had been a target of this sort of behaviour described their experiences to others. Most talked with peers at work or family members, half spoke to workplace superiors and friends outside work and about a fifth described what had occurred to subordinates.

Moreover, only a quarter of targets were satisfied with the way the organisation handled things. Con-



sequently, more than a third said that their commitment to their organisations had declined.

According to Christine Pearson, a management professor at the Kenan-Flagler business school, who presented the findings to a recent

gathering of business executives, the potential costs of rude, disrespectful encounters deserve attention from management. Leaders need to be aware that this sort of behaviour occurs, and that instigators may operate from positions of power,

and with cunning. Prof Pearson thought it was particularly significant that this was not an issue confined to women; targets were divided equally between the sexes.

While some organisations might characterise those who complained

of such actions as "thin-skinned" individuals, unsuited to the cut and thrust of the modern workplace, Prof Pearson believes that others will be prompted to introduce codes of conduct. Pointing out that the researchers had not found that the in-

cidents had occurred against particularly turbulent backgrounds that might increase stress among instigators of incivility, Prof Pearson said that the general changes in corporate life could be a factor in the high number of incidents. "There's

no question that the individual impact of stress in general is perceived as being higher than before. This whole idea of 'mean and lean' has turned inward," she said, adding that the more co-operative environments of the past had been replaced by more competitive atmospheres.

The researchers recommend five key responses to such behaviour. Employers need to:

- Clarify expectations regarding interpersonal dealings and establish explicit codes of conduct.
- Watch closely for patterns of behaviour.
- Document deviant incidents and take account of inappropriate behaviour in evaluations.
- Deny instigators further influence over people.
- Mandate (rather than recommend) counselling, if it is deemed necessary.

More generally, employers are urged to take steps in the "employment life cycle" to help minimise such episodes. These include:

- When recruiting and selecting people, checking their references carefully, assessing the fit of individuals with organisational and workplace cultures and considering the people skills that might be required of applicants.
- When inducting or training people, establishing expectations about behaviour; providing training for dealing with such issues as harassment as well as in stress management and conflict resolution.
- At evaluation time, documenting behaviour that does not meet expectations, providing corrective feedback to instigators regardless of their seniority or clout and providing opportunities for input by subordinates or peers.
- Finally, ensuring that a third party is present if an instigator is being fired, and not merely transferring people who should be fired.

## HOW TO HAVE A HAPPY, AND PROFITABLE, OFFICE

IT IS 10 years since freelance journalist and broadcaster Andrea Adams (pictured right) undertook the first research into workplace bullying.

Three years of work on the subject produced two BBC Radio 4 documentaries, a series of groundbreaking articles in *The Independent* in 1991 and, following tremendous public response, a book on the phenomenon written with Neil Crawford: *Bullying at*

*Work: How to Confront and Overcome It* (Virago, £8.99).

Adams died in 1995, but the Andrea Adams Trust has since been established as the UK's first and only workplace bullying charity. The trust has just launched a consultancy to advise companies on creating a healthy and profitable working environment.

It has also issued a list of key points of advice for people who are being bullied at work:

- Keep a factual log of all incidents.
- Get witnesses to bullying incidents.
- Avoid being alone with a bully.
- Find out if others are being bullied/will support you.
- Does your job description match your responsibilities?
- Inform your manager, union representative or personnel officer.
- Seek advice of representative.
- Learn of options available to you.

- Use company grievance procedures to raise issues.
- Keep copies of all appraisals, letters or memos relating to your job performance.

The first international conference on workplace bullying will take place on Wednesday 1 July at Staffordshire University. For information on the conference, contact Deborah Waine on 01783 353 762. The Andrea Adams Trust: 01273 704 901



Karen and Ken at Capitol Group

Glynn Griffiths

## Minding the man who minds the minders

BEFORE I came to work for Ken, I thought that I had moved out of secretarial work for good. But when my agency rang to tell me they had a job for a leading security company, I got talked into going to the interview.

I clicked immediately with Ken and his wife Jeannette, who is also a director of the company. Although the work sounded dynamic and involved, what really appealed to me was the idea of working for Ken himself – the fact that the industry is exciting is simply a bonus. Ken is very charismatic and energetic – he worked first as a policeman and then as a private investigator, but by the time I joined the company 19 months ago he had over 2,000 employees.

Ken is a hands-on executive. He

likes to keep in close contact with our clients and wants me to get to know them so that they will take me into their confidence when he isn't there. Because the business is of such a sensitive nature, the clients need to know that they can pick up a phone for back-up support at any time of the day or night, and I am often the first point of contact.

We are there to take the worry away and have guards on hand to deal with anything from a bomb threat to a threat of physical violence.

One of my first encounters with the undercover side of the business was when I walked into a meeting and saw myself on a television set placed on the table. I looked around for the camera, but couldn't find it because it was

### I WORK FOR

KAREN DRAKE IS PA TO KEN DULLEA, CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITY FIRM CAPITOL GROUP

hidden in a tie pin. There have been other entertaining moments, such as the time I got a phone call from the police asking me to identify two of our agents. They had been following a target on surveillance and had traced him to the edge of a military base which, being an IRA target, was under police surveillance itself – the agents were arrested under suspicion of being terrorists.

But the most absurd case of all was when an agent's cover was blown by the very man who employed him to work under cover within a casino as part of a fraud investigation. The client saw our agent working in the casino, recognised him, but forgot who he was and asked him what he was doing there!

I'm not an office-based PA – one moment I may be working on location for a highly confidential job and the next I will be putting oil into Ken's motorbike engine. We work a lot in his car and the pace is so frantic that sometimes both our mobiles and the car phone are ringing simultaneously. I have even been known to walk up and down the poolside taking down dictation whilst Ken does his lengths.

We are both a bit psychic. I am forever finishing Ken's sentences or answering his questions before he asks them. I think I have to be a bit of a Rottweiler to do this job. When an old boss of mine met Ken he asked, "So what's it like to have Karen as your boss?" But Ken's family have adopted me and Ken often refers to me as his daughter, which can confuse the clients.

People are always fascinated by my job and usually connect it with the spy business or MI5. But when questioned I always remain vague about the covert side because, of course, working for Britain's most secretive company means most of your job has to remain top secret.

INTERVIEW BY KATIE SAMPSON

## 'Allo darlin', let me tell you a love story...

THIS IS a horrible office full of stuck-up snobs with a grossly inflated opinion of their own importance in the world. And, though this description effectively applies to 99 per cent of the offices I've had the misfortune to work in, it's doubly applicable here.

After three-and-a-half weeks, nobody has bothered to give me the time of day, say good morning, say good night, or offer me a cup of coffee when they go to the machine for each other. I was beginning to wonder if I existed at all, or if I'd turned into some ghost-like extension of my computer, when finally someone spoke to me.

Jeff, the managing director, in an earlier generation he would have been a barrow boy, and been slapped in irons if his entrepreneurial spirit had led him to try for anything more. Blue shirt, with a thin white stripe and white collars and cuffs.

An accent that could have earned him a fortune going "Leave it ahhhh" behind the bar at the Queen Vic. Pinky ring the size of a knuckle-duster with a cockerel rampant on a bed of nails. Those trousers whose pocket-tops bulge out to the sides as though the contents below the zip are more than the cut can handle.

"'Allo, darlin'," said Jeff. "How are they treating you around here? All right?"

"Hello," I said. "Well, I can't really tell, to be honest, as none of them has spoken to me."

Jeff sucked air in through his front teeth as though preparing to groom a horse.

"Don't surprise me," he said. "Tell you what," he leant down, gave me a cheeky-chappy grin, "let's you and me go out to lunch tomorrow. Give 'em something to talk about."



### THE TEMP

An hour later, it was all round the office. The three other PAs were giving me the evil eye. Bradley, one of my boss's team, came over with some figures. "See you're making friends, then," he said. I don't think he meant it nicely.

Lunch: sausages and mash in a pub with pictures of cricketers on the walls. Jeff has exchanged the shirt for one with a faint pattern of maple leaves in the weave. Hangs his jacket over the back of the chair. Turns out he's picked up on the fact that I write, and wants to do a co-operative effort.

"A novel," he says. "Maybe a screenplay. Set in the language schools around Brighton during the Gulf war. Young bloke, East End boy looking for something more, working down there, meets Iraqi girl. Fall in love, eat candy floss, stay out all night. But her family don't approve of him and his family don't approve of her. War and that."

"So what happens in the end?" I ask, having guessed that this is in some way autobiographical. "War ends, she goes to America. They never see each

other again. I think she married a doctor in California."

I try to let him down gently. "Look, it sounds like an excellent story, but I think to be honest it's not my bag. I'm trying to work on stuff of my own at the moment."

Jeff gets sulky. "Well, excuse me. Just thought I could help you out of a hole. Turn round a nice little profit for both of us. Thought I was doing you a favour. Still, if you feel like that..."

We drain our half-pints of bitter, walk back to the office in silence. But he walks me back to my desk, says goodbye nicely. You can cut the atmosphere with a knife.

Andrea and Mandy walk past my desk talking in loud voices about people getting above their stations. Bradley comes back, waggles an eyebrow. "Nice lunch?" he asks, as though we've been locked in a hotel room somewhere.

"Yes, thanks," I say.

"You're certainly a fast worker."

"What?"

"Mates with management? After a job, or something else?"

I lose my lid. "Tell me," I say, "What's my name?"

"What?"

"What's my name?"

He looks lost, then shrugs. "Dunno."

"No, you don't, do you? None of you do. You've not made the first effort to give me the time of day since I got here, but the minute someone does, you're all over me like a swarm of wasps. Well, forget it. I don't give a damn what you think. Why should I? It's not like you've got any manners."

Bradley starts back. "Blimey," he says. "I was only having a joke, love."

No doubt about it. I need a holiday.

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## NEW FILMS

### CITY OF ANGELS (12)

Director: Brad Silberling  
Starring: Nicolas Cage, Meg Ryan, Dennis Franz  
Now last plans for Tim Burton's stab at a Superman film have been indefinitely postponed, it looks like Nicolas Cage will be denied the chance to wear his underpants outside his trousers. For the time being, his role in *City of Angels* will provide some consolation.

Although the picture claims Wim Wenders' *Wings of Desire* as its progenitor, the real inspiration for the film's pivotal dramatic dilemma lies in a far less prestigious source. When Seth, the angel played by Cage, puzzles over whether or not to exchange his divinity for domestic bliss with a mortal woman (Meg Ryan), he's following in the footsteps of the Man of Steel, who turned in all that saving-the-world poppycock for Lois Lane in *Superman II*. It always struck me that *Wings of Desire* have been much more tolerable as a Hollywood tearjerker than a sombre European art movie. Accordingly, *City of Angels* is silly in the way that only serious-minded movies can be. The romance between Cage and Ryan is startlingly limp, and it's left to the director, Brad Silberling, to conjure some magic from the chaos of Los Angeles.

### DREAM WITH THE FISHES (18)

Director: Finn Taylor  
Starring: David Arquette  
Here's a recipe for disaster. Take an uptight suicidal loser preparing to throw himself off a bridge. Add a junkie with a month to live and a headful of hedonistic fantasies that he's determined to realise on his way to the grave. Give them a few weeks on the road together, stir in a sprinkling of young supporting characters and leave to simmer until the inevitable tearful farewell. Serve with sick-bag at the ready. Perhaps it's the realisation that *Dream with the Fishes* could so easily have been a nightmare that makes its success seem refreshing and deserved. A movie about two young men learning to live in the shadow of death has no right being witty.

effervescent and adventurous, but *Dream with the Fishes* is all of these things.

### THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE (15)

Director: Stephen Kay  
Starring: Thomas Jane, Keanu Reeves  
A mannered and vacuous dip into the life of the Beat poet Neal Cassady, played by Thomas Jane, who believes that Cassady was a charmer, but portrays him as an egotistical sixth-former. There's lots of fast cutting and theatrical lighting, but the film just amounts to the same old Beat Generation clichés: blue smoke, white vests and black coffee, manna.

### SAVIOR (18)

Director: Peter Antonijevic  
Starring: Dennis Quaid, Nastassja Kinski  
There are also plenty of unexpected giggles in *Savior*, though given that the film is set in war-torn Bosnia, we should assume that they are mostly unintentional. In a bizarre pre-credits sequence, Dennis Quaid loses his wife (Nastassja Kinski) and son in a Paris bomb blast, then avenges their death by strolling into a mosque and gunning down a row of Muslims at prayer. I suspect that the editor dozed off at his Steinbeck, because the next thing you know, Quaid is a hired gun for the Serbs, shaking his head at various atrocities and taking a woman and her newborn daughter under his wing. When he sighs "This war sucks, man," you'd better cherish the line - it's the film's only shot at characterisation or political commentary.

### POINT BLANK (15)

Director: John Boorman  
Starring: Lee Marvin, Angie Dickinson, Keenan Wynn, James B. Sikking  
Re-release of John Boorman's finest film, a chilly and chilling existential thriller with Lee Marvin as the gangster Walker, his soul emptied but his mind full of revenge.

Ryan Gilbey

## THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

### Film Ryan Gilbey



Manchesteer Cornerhouse (0161-200 1500), today & tomorrow, 2pm, 5.45pm  
What do *Mrs Brown* and *The Wings of the Dove* (above) have in common? Quality. And two actresses Judi Dench and Helena Bonham Carter who came within sniffling distance of an Oscar this year. I hope this pairing prompts a revival of the old high-street double-bill, a package which used to be employed to extend the commercial life of a recent release or to smuggle out little gems which were considered unviable. Odeon Haymarket, London SW1 (0181-315 4212), 2pm, 7pm daily

### Theatre Dominic Cavendish

IMPROBABLE have established themselves as one of the most innovative theatre companies around, and *Lifeline* is characteristically ambitious. The idea is to act out a different person's life story every night, the actors taking their cue from an on-stage interview with the guest.

Tonight, Joanna Lumley (right) puts her life on the line.  
*Lytic Theatre, Hammersmith, London W6 (0181-741 2311), 7.30pm*  
*Comic Potential*, Alan Ayckbourn's 33rd play, is set in a near future where programmed actors hold the mirror up to nature in humourous performances which are almost as predictable as the plodding soaps they appear in. Janie Dee presses all the right buttons as the android heroine, Jackie Tripplethorne.  
*Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough (01723 370540), 7.30pm*



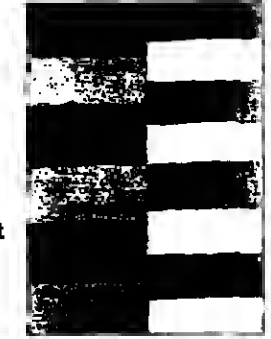
### Classical Duncan Hadfield

AMERICAN PIANIST Murray Perahia's visits to the land of his early triumph in the 1972 Leeds Piano Competition have been all too infrequent, so it's good to welcome him back with a major London recital. Perahia's customary immaculate balance, finesse and insight will be in evidence in two early Beethoven Sonatas - Op10 No2 and the Moonlight - and Schubert's expansive C minor D958. Royal Festival Hall, London SE1 (0171-960 4242) 7.30pm  
Keyboard mastery of a different kind at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall, and this time, the instrument is the spanning new organ there. The virtuoso playing it, the brilliant Wayne Marshall (above), has, in just a handful of years, seized the dusty image of organ playing by the throat. Tonight, he "pulls out all the stops", offering a barnstorming line-up of music by Widor, Vierne and Dupré. Bridgewater Hall, Manchester (0161-907 9000) 7.30pm



### Visual Arts Richard Ingleby

THE Timothy Taylor Gallery is the venue for a small but well-selected show of recent work by Sean Scully, one of the country's best abstract painters. As ever, his pictures are more commanding, more complex and more beautiful than one first expects - more about nuances of colour and tone and swings of mood than about stripes and squares, although, of course, stripes and squares are exactly what they are. Sean Scully, Timothy Taylor Gallery, 1 Bruton Place, London W1 (0171-409 3344) to 1 Aug  
In case there isn't enough football in your life, two enterprising art dealers have gathered more than 100 works of art on a footballing theme, called *Muddled Oafs* (right). It sounds a nightmare, but the selection includes some fine works, including Paul Nash's brilliant 1930s poster, 'Footballer's Prayer Shell'. *Muddled Oafs - An Exhibition of Football, Gallery 27, 27 Cork Street, London W1 (0171-624 6664) to 27 Jun*



## GENERAL RELEASE

### AFTERGLOW (15)

Two couples - fiftysomethings Nick Nolte and Julie Christie, and twentysomethings Lara Flynn Boyle and Jonny Lee Miller - swap partners and wry aphorisms in the latest urbane romantic comedy from writer-director Alan Rudolph.

### THE APOSTLE (12)

Director Robert Duvall plunges into the role of a preacher obsessed with God in a manner that is both terrifying and entrancing.

### THE BIG SWAP (18)

Drab, unconvincing and preachy drama played out against Sunday supplement locations

### THE BUTCHER BOY (15)

Neil Jordan's film of Patrick McCabe's blackly comic novel about a precocious 12-year-old in 1960s Ireland has a macabre thrill that is seductive. Jordan's depiction of the world, seen through the eyes of Francis (Eamonn Owens), is so rich and unsparring that it pulls you in in the manner of a Grimm fairy tale.

### DAD SAVAGE (18)

Patrick Stewart sheds his *Star Trek* image to play a pulp-gripping, Country & Western-obsessed East Anglian crime boss in this stab at re-inventing the British thriller.

### DARK CITY (15)

Alfred Hitchcock returns with another over-the-top urban nightmare. Amnesiac suspected serial-killer Rufus Sewell is pursued by four inspector William Hurt, syringe-wielding psychiatrist Kiefer Sutherland and Richard O'Brien as one of a sinister breed of aliens known as "The Strangers".

### DECONSTRUCTING HARRY (18)

Woody Allen's most honest and intelligent film in more than a decade.

### FISTS IN THE POCKET (NC)

A new print of Marco Bellocchio's 1965 classic.

### THE GENERAL (15)

John Boorman's best film in two decades charts the career of Dublin gangster Martin Cahill, who ran rings round the Garda with a series of heists before the IRA put him out of business in 1964.

### THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET (15)

A jaunty if unoriginal take on the rites-of-passage genre, set in Leicester at the start of the 1970s. The lively script is complimented by the performance of young actress Joanna Ward who sparkles as the film's heroine.

### THE GRASS HARP (PG)

An adaptation of Capote's novel about lives and loves in a southern American town in the 1940s. A fine cast has been assembled to little effect. Starring Jack Lemmon, Walter Matthau, Sissy Spacek, Piper Laurie and Edward Furlong.

### THE HANGING GARDEN (15)

Gay hero, Sweet William, returns home for the wedding of his sister (Kerry Fox), who is marrying the boy that William once had a crush on, in this disarming drama.

### LIVE FLESH (18)

A novel by Ruth Rendell is the unlikely origin of Pedro Almodóvar's most accomplished film to date, though the action has been shifted to Madrid and crammed with sexual symbolism so potent it leaves you reeling.

### LOLITA (18)

Adrian Lyne's remake of Kubrick's stylish Nabokov adaptation lacks spirit and adventure, starring Jeremy Irons and Dominique Swain.

### LOVE ETC (15)

This meandering French drama stars Charlotte Gainsbourg as a woman torn between her husband and his best friend.

### THE MAGNIFICENT AMBERSONS (U)

A welcome re-release of Orson Wells' 1942 masterpiece about a wealthy family whose conflicting emotions tear them apart.

### MARTHA - MEET FRANK, DANIEL & LAURENCE (15)

This incredibly engaging romantic comedy sees Martha, an American visiting London on whim, going on separate dates with three men who turn out to be best friends.

### MY SON THE FANATIC (15)

Hani Kureishi establishes an opposition between an agreeable, progressive Pakistani taxi driver and his son, who has his sights set on becoming a fundamentalist Muslim.

### NOWHERE (18)

One-man film factory Gregg Araki returns to the nihilistic landscape of *The Doom Generation* with another hallucinatory journey through an LA underground inhabited by young bisexual drifters, sadomasochists, druggies, arseheads - and, this time around, a few aliens for good measure.

### THE REAL BLONDE (15)

Tim DiCicco's prickly satire on the fashion industry doesn't have enough original or incidental ideas to go around, but it is charmingly played by a game cast, and littered with surprises and fuzzy one-liners.

### RED CORNER (15)

Richard Gere's very public pro-Tibet stance must have blinded him to the failings of this clunking piece of anti-Chinese propaganda.

### THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS (18)

Executive-produced by Hong Kong action director John Woo, this is an attempt to launch the American career of his favourite star, Chow Yun-Fat. Chow plays a hitman with a conscience who finds himself pursued by both the police and by the mob's "replacement killers".

### THE SCARLET TUNIC (12)

Worthy drama boasting a sparkling performance from Simon Callow.

### SOUL FOOD (15)

A black version of *Parenthood*, with all the attendant moralising, sentimentality and studied eccentricity which that implies.

### STAR KID (PG)

Amiable children's adventure about a young boy (Joseph Mazzello from *Jurassic Park*) who's called upon to save the universe. What it lacks in budget it makes up for in imagination.

### STIFF UPPER LIPS (15)

Spool of the Merchant/Ivory movies from one of the talents responsible for *Leon the Pig Farmer*.

### THE TASTE OF CHERRY (PG)

The winner of last year's Palme d'Or has taken a year to get a release over here, and it's not hard to see why. In *precis* - an Iranian man drives around the outskirts of Tehran looking for someone to help him commit suicide - but thanks to naturalistic performances, it's a hypnotic and moving experience.

### A THOUSAND ACRES (15)

Jessica Lange and Michelle Pfeiffer play sisters who rebel against their father (Jason Roberts) in this Deep South melodrama based on *King Lear*. Unfortunately, their talents are largely wasted.

### TITANIC (12)

Rose (Kate Winslet) is about to marry into obscene wealth, but has deserted her fiancé at the last minute for Jack (Leonardo DiCaprio), a ragamuffin from the wrong side of the tracks.

### WASHINGTON SQUARE (PG)

Bringing up the rear of the latest Henry James boom comes the story of the moony New York heiress (Jennifer Jason Leigh) whose four father (Albert Finney) forbids her marriage to a dashing but penniless suitor (Ben Chaplin).

### THE WEDDING SINGER (12)

A shamelessly dumb but very winning comedy about a romantic wedding singer (*Saturday Night Live*'s Adam Sandler) who falls in love with a waitress (Drew Barrymore), only to find that she's engaged to someone else.

## CINEMA WEST END

### THE APOSTLE (12)

Barbican Screen 8.40pm Phoenix Cinema 12.40pm, 6pm Empire Leicester Square 1.30pm Screen on the Hill 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm Fitz Cinema 3.30pm, 8.50pm

### AS GOOD AS IT GETS (15)

ABC Panton Street 2pm, 5pm, 8pm

### THE BIG LEBOWSKI (18)

Odeon Camden Town 12.35pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 9.05pm Warner Village 12.35pm, 3.50pm, 6.35pm, 9.30pm UCI Whiteleys 7.05pm ABC Panton Street 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Virgin Fulham Road 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

### THE BIG SWAP (18)

Piazza 12.35pm, 3.15pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm

### CITY OF ANGELS (12)

Odeon Camden Town 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm Virgin Haymarket 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Odeon Kensington 7pm, 9.40pm Barbican Screen 6.15pm, 8.40pm Odeon Marble Arch 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.45pm ABC Tottenham Court Road 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm Notting Hill Concert Square 5pm, 8.40pm Ritz Cinema 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Clapham Picture House 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Warner Village West End 12.30pm, 4.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.15pm, 11.40pm, 1.55pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm ABC Baker Street 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

### CITIZEN KANE (U)

ABC Panton St 2.40pm, 3.40pm, 8.20pm

### DARK CITY (15)

Virgin Trocadero 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.20pm Warner Village West End 3.55pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm

### DAYS OF BEING WILD (15)

(subtitles)  
ICA Cinema Mon 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

### DECONSTRUCTING HARRY (18)

ABC Swiss Centre 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

### DEEP IMPACT (12)

Odeon Marble Arch 12.10pm, 3.15pm, 6.05pm, 9.20pm Empire Leicester Square 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm Virgin Fulham Road 12.30pm, 3.25pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm UCI Whiteleys 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm Virgin Trocadero 12.20pm, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm

### DREAM WITH THE FISHES (18)

Metro 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

### THE FULL MONTY (15)

ABC Shaftesbury Avenue 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

### THE GENERAL (15)

Odeon Camden Town 12.05pm, 2.55pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm Virgin Trocadero 2pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm Warner Village West End 12.30pm, 6pm Clapham Picture House 3pm, 8.30pm, 1.15pm

### GOOD WILL HUNTING (15)

ABC Panton St 2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm

### THE GRASS HARP (PG)

ABC Piccadilly 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

### HAPPY TOGETHER (15)

ABC Swiss Centre 6.20pm

### JACKIE BROWN (15)

Piazza 12.50pm, 4.15pm, 7.40pm

### KUNDFUN (12)

ABC Swiss Centre 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 8.20pm

### THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE (15)

ABC Piccadilly 1.35pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

### LIVE FLESH (18)

Reinhold Filmhouse 8.45pm Curzon Minerva 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm Screen on Baker Street 3.45pm, 6.40pm, 8.45pm Metro 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Regal 4pm, 7.10pm, 8.25pm, 10.40pm Odeon Camden Town 12.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm Ritz Cinema 6.30pm

### LOLITA (18)

Warner Village West End 11.40am, 2.25pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Virgin Haymarket 8.15pm

### MARTHA - MEET FRANK, DANIEL & LAURENCE (15)

Odeon West End 4.05pm, 8.50pm Virgin Chelsea 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm

### MA VIE EN ROSE (12)

Ritz Cinema 2.25pm

### MY SON THE FANATIC (15)

ABC Swiss Centre 3.55pm, 8.40pm

### POINT BLANK (18)

Ritz Cinema 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7.05pm

### RED CORNER (15)

Odeon Marble Arch 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 8pm Virgin Trocadero 2.10pm, 5.20pm, 8.30pm UCI Whiteleys 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.25pm Piazza 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

### THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS (18)

Virgin Trocadero 12.20pm, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 9pm UCI Whiteleys 4.30pm, 8.40pm

### SAVIOR (18)

Virgin Haymarket 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Virgin Fulham Road 2pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.15pm

### THE SCARLET TUNIC (12)

ABC Shaftesbury Avenue 1.35pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

### SCREEN 2 (18)

Warner Village West End 3.20pm, 8.50pm

### SHALL WE DANCE? (PG)

ABC Swiss Centre 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

### SHANE (PG)

Barbican Screen 6.15pm

### SLIDING DOORS (15)

UCI Whiteleys 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm ABC Baker Street 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.40pm Virgin Fulham Road 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm Virgin Trocadero 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm Empire Leicester Square 1pm, 3.20pm, 5.40pm, 8pm ABC Tottenham Court Road 1.25pm, 4.05pm, 6.40pm, 9.25pm Phoenix Cinema 3.40pm, 8.55pm

### SOUL FOOD (15)

Ritz Cinema 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm UCI Whiteleys 3.50pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm Ritz Cinema 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Warner Village West End 12.50pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Virgin Trocadero 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.50pm

### STIFF UPPER LIPS (15)

UCI Whiteleys 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 9.35pm Virgin Chelsea 2pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Piazza 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.10pm Warner Village West End 11.45am, 1.55pm, 4.10pm, 6.25pm

### THE TASTE OF CHERRY (PG)

Regal 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

### A THOUSAND ACRES (15)

Richmond Filmhouse 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Virgin Chelsea 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.1







# WEDNESDAY RADIO

**RADIO 1**  
(97.8-98.8MHz FM)  
6.30 Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball  
9.00 Simon Mayo, 12.00 Jo  
Whaley, 2.00 Mark Radcliffe, 4.00  
Dave Pearce, 6.30 Stuart Lamack  
the Evening Session, 8.30 Movie  
Update with Mark Kermode, 8.40  
John Peel, 10.30 Mary Anne  
Hobbs, 1.00 Clive Warren, 4.00 -  
6.30 Chris Moyles.

**RADIO 2**  
(88-90.2MHz FM)  
6.00 Sarah Kennedy, 7.30 Wake  
Up to Wogan, 9.30 Ken Bruce,  
12.00 Jimmy Young, 2.00 Ed  
Stewart, 5.05 Johnnie Walker,  
7.00 Nick Barracough, 8.00 Mike  
Harding, 9.00 The Andy Peebles  
Soul Show, 10.00 Johnnie Walker,  
10.30 Richard Allinson, 12.05 Jeff  
Owen, 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

**RADIO 3**  
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)  
6.00 On Air  
9.00 Masterworks  
10.30 Artist of the Week  
11.00 Sound Stories  
12.00 Composer of the Week: C P  
E Bach  
1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert  
2.00 The BBC Orchestras  
4.00 Choral Evensong  
5.00 In Tune  
7.25 Performance on 3: Dr Oxy's  
Experiment, World premiere production  
of the new opera by Gavin Bryars,  
staged by Canadian film director  
Atom Egoyan. The story is a satirical  
version by Blake Morrison of a  
fantastic tale by Jules Verne. With  
Bonaventura Bortone, tenor (Dr Oxy)  
and Riccardo Simonetti, baritone  
(Ygene), Chorus and Orchestra of  
English National Opera/James  
Holmes, Act 1. See Pick of the Day.  
8.30 Interval. Natalie Wheen talks  
to Gavin Bryars, Blake Morrison  
and Atom Egoyan about the  
preparations for Dr Oxy's  
Experiment.  
8.50 Dr Oxy's Experiment, Act 2.  
10.45 Postscript: The Short Stories  
of Ernest Hemingway. 3: The  
Snows of Kilimanjaro. Reader Ron  
Bergias. Abridged by John Hartley.  
10.45 Night Waves. As the British  
Museum launches its first exhibition

## PICK OF THE DAY

GAVIN BRYARS' beautifully  
stylised, though rather long-  
winded, rendition of Jules  
Verne's black comedy, Dr Oxy's  
Experiment (7.25pm R3), comes  
live from the English National  
Opera, with an enchanting  
libretto by Blake Morrison. It  
tells the story of a mad scientist  
who conducts a scientific  
experiment on a sleepy town  
in Tlaxcala, with catastrophic  
results. The distinguished recon-  
teur Frank Muir is recalled with

touching affection by his co-  
writer Denis Norden (right) in a  
Kenilworth Road. Rehearsal  
(11.30am R4), which includes  
some rib-ticking excerpts from  
their radio series *Take It from  
Here*. Nightwaves (10.45pm  
R2) looks at the uneasy issues  
surrounding the display of  
indigenous collections abroad as  
the British Museum launches  
its first exhibition devoted to  
Maori art.

FIONA STURGES



devoted to the culture and arts of  
the Maori people of New Zealand.  
Laura Cumming explores the  
contentious issues surrounding the  
origins and display of ethnic  
collections abroad and hears from  
New Zealand about the work of  
contemporary Maori artists and  
writers. Plus first-night news from  
the opening of 'How I Learned to  
Drive' by Pulitzer Prize-winning  
playwright Paula Vogel. See Pick of  
the Day.  
11.30 Jazz Notes.  
12.00 Composer of the Week:  
Beethoven. (R)  
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

**RADIO 4**  
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)  
6.00 Today  
9.00 Midweek  
9.45 Serial: Intimate Death.  
10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.  
11.00 NEWS: On Watch.  
11.30 Frank Muir - a Kenilworth  
Road. Rehearsal. See Pick of the Day.  
12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.  
1.00 The World at One.  
1.30 Wordly Wise. (R)  
2.00 NEWS: The Archers.  
2.15 Afternoon Play: Retouching  
Time.  
3.30 Matchmakers.  
3.45 The End of the World.  
4.00 NEWS: Case Notes.  
4.30 Thinking Allowed.  
5.00 PM.  
5.00 Six O'Clock News.  
5.30 The Alan Davies Show.

**7.00 NEWS: The Archers.**  
7.45 Front Row. Mark Lawson  
presents the arts show, which  
tonight features a verdict on a new  
play by American dramatist David  
Mamet.  
7.45 Under One Roof: I Never  
Promised You a Rose Garden. Sally  
Worboys's series is based on the  
original stories by Michele Hanson.  
Everything in the garden is not  
quite as lovely as Gillian and her  
boyfriend would like, as he sets to  
work to create an Eden in the  
suburbs and battles with major  
resistance from Bernice and Chloe.  
With Paola Dionisotti and Edna  
Dore (3/5).

**6.00 NEWS: The Moral Maze.**  
Michael Burk and his team of  
regulars cross-examine 'witnesses'  
about their views on the moral  
questions behind one of the week's  
headlines.  
8.45 Maps for the Future. The third  
of four programmes featuring  
speeches of inspiration and humour  
from graduation ceremonies past  
and present.  
9.00 NEWS: Costing the Earth.  
'Tyres'. Tighter regulations have  
meant that we change our tyres  
more frequently than ever, but  
where do they go? As landfill will no  
longer be an option, Costing the  
Earth investigates the possibility of  
an environmental solution.  
Presented by Guy Linley-Adams.  
9.30 Midweek. Lively conversation  
with Emma Freud and guests.

**10.00 The World Tonight.**  
10.45 Black at Bedtime. Scarlet  
and Black. By Stendhal, read by  
Greg Wise, abridged in ten parts by  
Michelle Wandor. Julien's  
ambitions become focussed on the  
church. He falls in love, but an  
anonymous letter threatens disaster  
(3/10).  
11.00 The Way It Is. Satire,  
sketches and a hard look behind  
the week's media events from  
Sanjeev Bhaskar, Simon Evans,  
Dave Lamb and Fiona Allen.  
11.30 The Cheese Shop Presents...  
12.00 News.  
12.30 The Late Book: Intimacy.  
12.45 Shipping Forecast.  
1.00 As World Service.  
5.30 World News.  
5.35 Shipping Forecast.  
5.45 Inshore Forecast.  
5.45 Prayer for the Day.  
5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

**RADIO 4 LW**  
(98kHz)  
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00  
- 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping  
Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping  
Forecast. 11.30 - 6.00 Today in  
Parliament.  
**RADIO 5 LIVE**  
(693, 909kHz MW)  
6.00 The Breakfast Programme.  
9.00 Nicky Campbell.  
12.00 The Midday News.  
1.00 Wimbledon and World Cup

**7.55 World Cup 98.** Ian Payne  
introduces commentary from John  
Murray, Simon Brotherton and  
Martin O'Neill in Lens as the final  
placements are decided in Group D.  
Plus news of the nights other  
game, Nigeria v Paraguay, from  
Jimmy Armfield in Toulouse.  
Including the National Lottery Draw.  
10.00 Late Night Live. With Nick  
Robinson, including a late news  
briefing at 11.00, and at 11.15 The  
Financial World Tonight and a  
topical late-night discussion.  
1.00 Up All Night.  
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

**CLASSIC FM**  
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)  
6.00 Nick Bailey, 8.00 Henry  
Kelly, 12.00 Requests, 2.00  
Concerto, 3.00 Jamie Cullum, 6.30  
Newsnight, 7.00 Smooth Classics  
at Seven, 9.00 Evening Concert.  
11.00 Alan Murray, 2.00 Concerto.  
3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

**VIRGIN RADIO**  
(125, 167, 126.04MHz MW 105.8MHz FM)  
7.00 Chris Evans, 10.00 Russ  
Williams, 1.00 Nick Abbot, 4.00  
Robin Banks/FM only Ray Cokes  
from 6.45pm, 7.30 Ray Cokes.  
10.00 Mark Forster, 2.00 Cairn  
Jones, 5.00 - 7.00 Jeremy Clark.

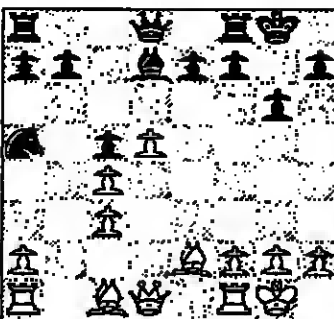
**WORLD SERVICE**  
(198kHz LW)  
1.00 Newsweek, 1.30 From Our  
Down Correspondent, 1.45 Britain  
Today, 2.00 News, 2.00 Dales,  
Ordnance, 3.00 Newsday, 3.30  
Meridian (Books), 4.00 World  
News, 4.05 World Business  
Report, 4.15 Sports Roundup.  
4.30 The World Today (0430-  
0700)/insight (SW 5875kHz only).  
4.45 Off the Shelf: Something to  
Hide, 5.30 Outlook (SW 7235kHz  
only), 5.55 - 6.30 Music Brief  
(SW 7235kHz only).

**TALK RADIO**  
6.30 The New Talk Radio  
Breakfast Show Kirsty Young with  
Bill Overton, 9.00 Scott Chisholm,  
12.00 Lorraine Kelly, 2.00  
Tommy Boyd, 3.00 France v  
Denmark Live Commentary, 5.00  
Peter Dinkley, 7.00 Alan Rasmussen,  
9.00 James Whale, 1.00 Ian  
Collins and the Creatures of the  
Night, 5.00 - 6.30 The Early  
Show with Bill Overton.

## INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

### CHESS

WILLIAM HARTSTON



Writer: V Kramnik  
Black: V Anand  
Five-minute play-off  
Frankfurt Chess Classic 1998  
English Opening

|              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1 N3 c5      | 20 dxe6 Bxe6   |
| 2 c4 Nc6     | 21 Qxd8 Rxd8   |
| 3 Nc3 g5     | 22 Rxd1 g5     |
| 4 e3 Bg7     | 23 Rxd1 g5     |
| 5 d4 d6      | 24 Bc1 Bg4     |
| 6 d5 Bxc3+   | 25 B3 Bx3      |
| 7 bxc3 Na5   | 26 Rd2 Ke1     |
| 8 e4 Nf6     | 27 Bb2 Ne5     |
| 9 e5 dxe5    | 28 Kf2 Rb1     |
| 10 Nxe5 0-0  | 29 a3 h5       |
| 11 Be2 Nd7   | 30 a4 a5       |
| 12 Nxd7 Bxd7 | 31 Bb3 Kf7     |
| 13 0-0 b6    | 32 Rb3 Ra1     |
| 14 Bb6 Re8   | 33 Bb3 Bd1     |
| 15 Qd2 Nb7   | 34 Bb2 Bx3     |
| 16 Rfe1 Nd6  | 35 Bxa1 Bxa4   |
| 17 Bf1 f5    | 36 Bg7 Bc5     |
| 18 Bf4 Nf7   | 37 Bf1 Bd7     |
| 19 g3 e5     | White resigned |

USUALLY WHEN a player ouages a  
knight's pawn one square for-  
wards, it is a preparation for devel-  
oping his bishop on the long  
diagonal. Sometimes (as in various  
...b6 systems in the Queen's Gam-  
bit Declined) the primary idea is to  
support a later advance of the  
neighbouring bishop's pawn. Often,  
as in the King's Indian, where g5  
looks forward to both an immediate  
Bg7 and a later e5 and f5 both  
ideas are combined.

When Anand played b6 in the  
game that won him the Frankfurt  
Chess Classic, however, it was not  
his bishop or pawns, but his knight  
he was thinking about. In the dia-  
gram position, shortly after the  
opening, Anand seemed to be suf-  
fering for his willingness to part  
with the black-squared bishop. His  
attack against the doubled c-pawns  
is getting nowhere, and he faces a  
threatened attack with Bb6 fol-  
lowed, perhaps, by such moves as  
b4, b5, Bb5, Re1 and Qf3.

Anand found the perfect plan: his  
knight must return to aid the  
defence, so he played 13...b6! fol-  
lowed by Nb7, Nd6, f5 and Nf7.  
When the bishop had been driven  
away from b6, Black gradually took  
over the initiative. When 24...Bg4  
came, with its threat of a rook in-  
vasion on e1, White's fell apart with  
surprising rapidity. An interesting  
game and a rare knight fianchetto.

### BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

SOUTH'S LINE of play in his slam  
contract on this deal went some  
way towards improving his  
chances but it was not quite good  
enough. There was, in fact, a 100  
per cent route to success.

South opened One Club and  
North forced with Two Spades.  
Unwilling to rebid his bad suit, in  
spite of its length, if a slam was in  
the offering, South temporised with  
Two No-trumps. He was re-  
assured when North now bid Three  
Clubs, showing that his force had  
been based on a club fit. Well,  
South had excellent controls in the  
red suits and they soon reached Six  
Clubs against which West led ♠Q.

The 3-0 trump break was irri-  
tating, but there were still plenty of  
chances. As you can see, a simple  
spade finesse would work - like the  
heart finesse, a 50 per cent chance -  
but the slightly better play of a  
ruffing finesse in the suit does not.  
Instead declarer drew a second  
round of trumps, cashed ♠A,K,  
and ruffed a spade. In this way he  
would be home if ♠Q fell in three  
and, if it did not, there would still  
be time to try the heart finesse.  
Nothing behaved, and the slam  
failed.

Declarer was certainly right to

| Game all; dealer South |  |             |  |
|------------------------|--|-------------|--|
| North                  |  | East        |  |
| ♠A K J 10              |  | ♠9 8 5      |  |
| ♥8 5                   |  | ♥J 9 6 3 2  |  |
| ♦Q 7 2                 |  | ♦10 8 5 4 3 |  |
| ♣A K 5 3               |  | ♣none       |  |
| South                  |  | West        |  |
| ♥7 2                   |  | ♥Q 6 5 4    |  |
| ♠A Q                   |  | ♠K 10 7 4   |  |
| ♣A K 6                 |  | ♦J 9        |  |
| ♠9 8 7 6 4 2           |  | ♥Q J 10     |  |

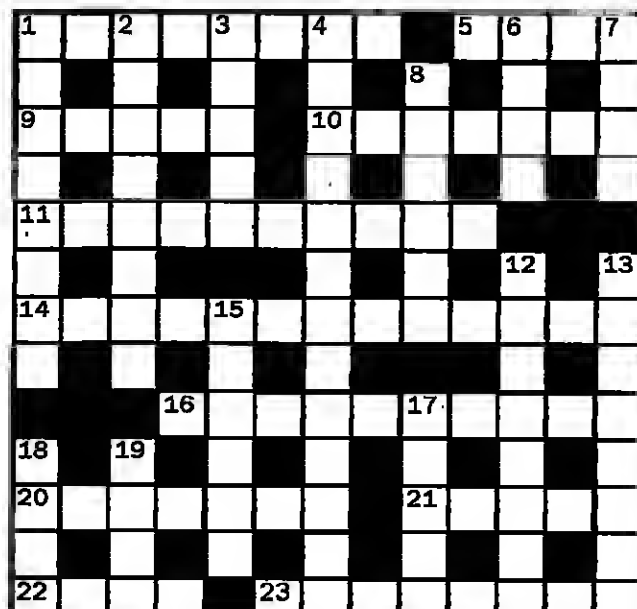
### PUZZLE

HOW CAN you turn A SCOTTISH  
WRITER and A NOVEL into a  
Scottish writer and his novel?

Yesterday's answer: REMOTE  
CAPITALS NOTED has the letters  
of ASTERIOD, PLANET, COMET

## CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3645 Wednesday 24 June



### ACROSS

- Underwear (8)
- In this place (4)
- Liberty (7)
- Written copy of legal pro-  
ceedings (10)
- Not deliberate (13)
- Intolerable (10)
- Chief (7)
- Salt water (5)
- Only a fish? (4)
- Short plays (8)

### DOWN

- African capital (8)
- Beneath one's dignity (abbr.)  
(5)
- Drying ovens (5)
- Dictionary, e.g. (9, 4)
- Dangerous current (4)
- Trees (4)
- Home of Greek oracle (6)
- Socially pretentious (8)
- Stupid (at crosswords?) (8)
- Bulk oil carrier (6)
- Disprove (5)
- Egyptian goddess (4)
- Gemstone (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Haste, 4 Axe (Haystacks), 7 Uddo, 8 Gertrude, 9 Bun-  
burner, 10 Degree, 13 Always, 15 Intelligence, 19 Premises, 20 Idol,  
21 Mat, 22 Eager. DOWN: 1 Hiodu, 2 Sponsor, 3 Elgin, 4 Aaroo, 5 El-  
derly, 6 Trauma, 11 Epigram, 12 Enlist, 14 Weeping, 16 Tempt, 17 Is-  
sue, 18 Choir.

## SATELLITE AND CABLE

### PICK OF THE DAY

A QUARTER of a century after  
The Rocky Horror Picture  
Show (8pm Sky Movies  
Gold) was first performed, the  
stage version of Richard  
O'Brien's comedy-horror musical  
continues to tour the country  
and pull in audiences dressed  
up in absurdly camp costumes. In  
the film adaptation, directed by  
Jim Sharman, Tim Curry (right)  
makes a memorable Frank N  
Furter, the sexually outrageous  
doctor who shelters and then  
threatens to corrupt a square

all-American couple (Barry  
Bostwick and young Susan  
Sarandon). O'Brien, meanwhile,  
has tremendous fun as Furter's  
henchman, Riff Raff. The  
quintessential cult movie. Has  
cricket known a more flamboyant  
showman than Ian Botham?  
His feats in what has gone down  
in history as Botham's Ashes in  
1981 are unlikely to be matched  
by a mere mortal. He is featured  
in SportsTrax (2.30pm Sky  
Sports 3).



JAMES RAMPTON

**5.00 First Flights (2002/47).** 5.30  
History's Turning Points (7325/59). 6.00  
Animal Doctor (7316/52). 6.30  
Mars: A Journey to the Red Planet  
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